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THE FIRM OF GIRDLESTONE.

A ROMANCE OF THE UNROMANTIC.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

AUTHOR OF "MICHAEL CLARKE," "A STUDY IN SCARLET," ETC.

CHAPTER XXXI.

A CRISIS AT ECCLESTON-SQUARE.

His father's encouraging words had given Ezra Girdlestone fresh heart, and he had renewed his importunities with greater energy than ever. Never surely did any man devote every moment of his time more completely to the winning of a woman's heart. From morning until night the one idea was ever before his mind, and every little want of Kate's was forestalled with a care and foresight which astonished her. The richest fruit and flowers found their way unexpectedly into her room, her table was littered with the latest books from Mudie's, and the newest pieces lay upon her music stand. Nothing which attention and thoughtfulness could do was left undone either by the father or the son.

In spite of these attentions, however, and the frequent solicitations of her guardian, Kate stood firmly by her colours. If the Tom of the present were false, she at least would be true to the memory of the Tom of other days, the lad who had first whispered words of love into her ear. Her ideal should remain with her whatever might befall. No other man could ever take the place of that.

That Tom was from some unexplained and unaccountable reason false to her appeared to be beyond all question. Her trusting and innocent heart could not dream of the subtle network which was being wound round her. Her secluded life had left her very ignorant of the ways of the world, and the possibility of an elaborate deceit being practised upon her had never occurred to her. From the day that she heard the extract of the letter read by her guardian she never doubted but that such letters were received at the office by the man who professed to love her. How could she hesitate to believe it when it was confirmed by his avoidance of Eccleston-square and of herself? The cause of it all was a mystery which no amount of speculation could clear up. Sometimes the poor girl would blame herself, as is the way of such cases. "I have not been good enough of the world," she would say to herself. "I have none of the charms of these women whom I read of in the novels. No doubt I seemed dull and insipid in my eyes. And yet—and yet—there always remained at the end of her cogitations the same vague sense of bewilderment and mystery.

She endeavoured as far as possible to avoid Ezra Girdlestone, and stayed in her room for the most part on the days when he was at home. He had, however, on the advice of his father, ceased pressing his suit except in the silent manner aforementioned, so that she gradually took courage, and ended by resuming her old habits. In her heart she pitied the young merchant very sincerely, for he was looking haggard and pale. "Poor fellow," she thought as she watched him, "he certainly loves me. Ah, Tom, Tom; had you only been as constant, how happy we should be!" She was even prompted sometimes to cheer Ezra up by some kind word or look. This he would not take to be an encouragement to renew his advances. Perhaps he was not far wrong, for if love be wanting pity is certainly an excellent substitute.

One morning after breakfast the elder Girdlestone called his son aside into the library. "I've had a notice," he said, "as to paying up dividends. Our time is short, Ezra. You must bring matters to a head. If you don't it will be too late."

"You mustn't pick fight before it is ripe," the other answered moodily.

"You can try if it is ripe though. If not, you can try again. I think that your chance is a good one. She is alone in the breakfast-room, and the table has been cleared. You cannot have a better opening. Go, my son, and may heaven prosper you!"

"Very well. Do you wait in here, and I shall let you know how things go. The young man buttoned up his coat, pulled down his cuffs, and walked back into the breakfast-room with a sullen look of resolution upon his dark face.

Kate was sitting in a wicker chair by the window, arranging flowers in a vase. The morning sunlight streaming in upon her gave a colour to her pale face as it glittered in her heavy, curled chestnut hair. She wore a light pink morning dress, which added to the ethereal effect of her lithe, beautiful figure. As Ezra entered she looked round and started at sight of his face. Instinctively she knew on what errand he had come.

"You will be late at Fenchurch-street," she said, with a constrained smile. "It is nearly eleven now."

"I am not going to the office to-day," he answered gravely. "I have come in here, Kate, to know my fate. You know very well, and must have known for some time back, that I love you, and you'll marry me if you'll make me a happy man, and I'll make you a happy woman."

"That sort of thing," he said, "is what I mean. What have you got to say in answer?" He leaned his broad hands on the back of a chair as he spoke, and drummed nervously with his fingers.

Kate had drooped her head over the flowers, but she looked up at him now with frank, pitying eyes.

"Put this idea out of your head, Ezra," she said in a low but firm voice. "Believe me I shall always be grateful to you for the kindness which you have shown me of late. I will be sister to you, if you will let me, but I can never be more."

"And why not?" asked Ezra, still leaning over the chair with an angry light beginning to sparkle in his dark eyes. "Why can you never be my wife?"

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"How dare you speak to me so!" Kate cried, springing to her feet in honest anger.

"It's the truth, and you know it," returned Ezra with a sneer. "Aren't you proud to be hanging on to a man who doesn't want you—a man that is a smooth-tongued sneak, with the heart of a rabbit?"

"If he were here you would not dare to say so!" Kate retorted hotly.

"Wouldn't I?" he snarled fiercely.

"No, you wouldn't. I don't believe that he has ever been untrue to me. I believe that you and your father have planned to make me believe it and to keep us apart. Heaven knows what it was that suddenly brought this idea into Kate's before Kate's mind. Perhaps it was her some dim perception of the wickedness of which such a nature might be capable. The dark face turned so much darker at her words that she felt a great throb of joy at her heart, and knew that this strange new thought which had flashed upon her was the truth.

"You can't deny it," she cried, with shining eyes and clenched hands. "You know that it is true. I shall see him and hear from his own lips what he has to say. He loves me still, and I love him, and have never ceased to love him."

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that he stopped, fairly unable to articulate another word. With a threatening motion of his hands he turned upon his heel and rushed from the room. As he passed it chanced that Flo, Kate's little Skye terrier, ran across his path. All the brutality of the man's soul rose up in the instant, he raised his heavy boot, and sent the poor little creature howling and writhing under the sofa, whence it piteously emerged upon three legs, trailing the fourth one behind it.

"The brute!" Kate cried, as she fondled the injured animal and poured indignation tears over it. Her gentle soul was so stirred by the cowardly deed that she felt that she could have flown at her late sutor were he still in the room. "Poor little Flo! That kick was meant for me in reality, my little pet. Never mind, dear, there are bright days coming, and he has not forgotten me. Flo, I know it. I know it!" The little dog, whined sympathetically, and licked its mistress's hand as though it were looking into its canine future, and could also discern better days ahead.

Ezra Girdlestone, stern and lowering, tramped into the library, and told his father brusquely of the result of his wooing. What occurred in that interview was never known to any third person. The servants, who had some idea that something was afoot, have recorded that at the beginning of the conversation the bass voice of the son and the high raucous tones of the father were heard in loud recrimination and reproach. Then they mightily sunk into tones so low that there might have been complete silence in the room for all that any one could tell from the passage outside. This whispered conversation may have lasted the greater part of an hour. At the end of it the young merchant departed for the City. It has been remarked that from that time there came a change over both the father and the son—a change so subtle that it could hardly be described, though it left its mark upon them both. It was not that the grey, wolfish face of the old man looked even sorer and fiercer, or that the hard, arrogant expression of Ezra deepened into something even more sinister. It was that a shadowy, shadowy as of men who carry a thought in their minds on which it is not good to dwell.

During that long hour Kate had remained in the breakfast-room, still nursing her injured companion, and very busy with her own thoughts. She was as convinced now that Tom had been true to her as if she had had the assurance from his own lips. Still, there was much that was unaccountable—much which she was unable to fathom. A vague sense of the wickedness and deep selfishness which he had shown in the way he had left her very ignorant of the ways of the world, and the possibility of an elaborate deceit being practised upon her had never occurred to her. From the day that she heard the extract of the letter read by her guardian she never doubted but that such letters were received at the office by the man who professed to love her. How could she hesitate to believe it when it was confirmed by his avoidance of Eccleston-square and of herself? The cause of it all was a mystery which no amount of speculation could clear up. Sometimes the poor girl would blame herself, as is the way of such cases. "I have not been good enough of the world," she would say to herself. "I have none of the charms of these women whom I read of in the novels. No doubt I seemed dull and insipid in my eyes. And yet—and yet—there always remained at the end of her cogitations the same vague sense of bewilderment and mystery.

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"They are not coming back."

"Impossible!" Tom cried in despair. "What is their address, then?"

"They have left no address. I am sorry I can't help you. Good night, sir." Rebecca closed the door, laughing maliciously at the case of the wildered looks. She knew the facts of her young well, and having long been jealous of her young mistress, she was not sorry to find things going wrong with her.

Tom Dimdale stood upon the doorstep looking blankly into the night. He felt dazed and bewildered. What fresh villainy was this? Was it a confirmation of the German's report, or was it a contradiction of it. Cold beads stood upon his forehead as he thought of the possibility of such a thing. "I must find her," he cried, with clenched hands, and turned away heart sick into the turmoil and bustle of the London streets.

CHAPTER XXXII.

A CONVERSATION IN THE ECCLESTON-SQUARE LIBRARY.

Rebecca, the fresh-complexioned waiting-maid, was still standing behind the ponderous hall door, listening, with a smile upon her face, to young Dimdale's retreating footsteps, when another and a braver tread caught her ear coming from the opposite direction. The smile died away as she heard it, and her features assumed a peculiar expression, in which it would be hard to say whether fear or pleasure predominated. She passed her hands up over her face and smoothed her hair with a quick nervous gesture, glancing down at the same time at her snowy apron and the bright ribbons which set it off. Whatever her intentions may have been, she had no time to improve upon her toilet before a key turned in the door and Ezra Girdlestone stepped into the hall. As he saw her shadowy figure, for the gas was low, he uttered a hoarse cry of surprise and fear, and staggered backwards against the door post.

"Don't be afraid, Mister Ezra," she said in a whisper; "it's only me."

"The devil take you!" cried Ezra, furiously. "What makes you stand about like that? You gave me quite a turn."

"I didn't mean for to do it. I've only just been answering of the door. Why, surely you've come in before now and found me in the hall without making much account of it."

"Ah, lass," answered Ezra, "my nerves have had a shake of late. I've felt queer all day. Look how my hand shakes."

"Well, I'm blessed!" said the girl with a titter, turning up the gas. "I never thought to see you afraid of anything. Why, you look as white as a sheet!"

"There, that's enough!" he answered roughly. "Where are the others?"

"Jane is out. Cook and William and the boy are downstairs."

"Come into the library here. They will think that you are up in the bed-rooms. I want to have a quiet word or two with you. Turn up that reading lamp. Well, are they gone?"

"Yes, they are gone," she answered, standing by the side of the couch on which he had thrown himself, and took her away."

"Make a fuss? No, why should she? There's a fuss enough made about her, in all conscience. Oh, Ezra, before she got between you and me to me at times. I could stand harsh words from you six days a week, if there was a chance of a kind one on the seventh. But now—now what notice do you take of me?" She began to whimper and to wipe her eyes with a little discoloured pocket handkerchief.

"Drop it, woman, drop it!" cried her companion testily. "I want information, not snivelling. She seemed reconciled to go."

"Yes, she went quiet enough," the girl said with a furtive sob.

"Just give me a drop of brandy out of that bottle over there, the one with the cork half out. I've not got over my start yet. Did you hear my father say anything as to where they were going?"

"I heard him tell the cabman to drive to Waterloo Station."

"Nothing more?"

"No."

"Well, if he won't tell you, I will. They have gone down to Hampshire, my lass. Bedworth is the name of the place, and it is a pleasant little corner near the sea. I want you to go down there as well to-morrow."

"Want me to go?"

"Yes, they need some one who is smart and handy to keep house for them. There is some old woman already, I believe, but she is old and useless. I'll warrant you wouldn't take long getting things shipshape. My father intends to stay down there some little time with Miss Harston."

"And how about you?" the girl asked, with a quick flash of suspicion in her dark eyes.

"Don't trouble about me. I shall stay behind and mind the business. Someone must be on the spot. I think cook and Jane and William ought to be able to look after me am'g them."

"And I won't see you at all!" the girl cried, with a quiver in her voice. "I'll be down from Saturday to Monday every week, and perhaps oftener. If business goes well I may come down and stay for some time. Whether I do or not may depend upon you."

Rebecca Taylorforth started and uttered an exclamation of surprise. "How can it depend upon me?" she asked eagerly.

"Well," said Ezra, in a hesitating way, "it may depend upon whether you are a good girl, and do what you are told or not. I am sure that you would do anything at all to serve me, would you not?"

"You know very well that I would, Mister Ezra. When you want anything done you remember it, but if you have no use for me there is never a kind look on your face or a kind word from your lips. I could stand your harshness. I could bear the blows you gave me, and forgive you for it, but to stand by and wait while you were making up to another woman. It was more than I can bear."

"Never mind, my girl," said Ezra in a soothing voice. "That's all over and done with. See what I've brought you." He rummaged in his pocket and produced a little parcel of tissue paper, which he handed to her.

It was only a small silver anchor, with Scotch pebbles inlaid in it. The woman's eyes, however, flashed as she looked at it, and she raised it to her lips and kissed it passionately.

"God bless it and you too!" she said. "I've heard tell as the anchor's emblem of hope, and so it shall be with me. Oh, Ezra, you may travel far and meet them as can play and can sing and do many a thing as I can't do, but you'll never get one who will love you as dearly and as well."

"I know it, my lass. I know it," said Ezra, smoothing down her dark hair, for she had never met your equal yet. That's why I want you down at Bedworth. I must have some one there that I can trust."

"What am I to do down at Bedworth?" she asked.

"I want you to be Miss Harston's companion. She'll be lonely, and will need some other woman in the house to look after her."

"Curse her!" cried Rebecca, springing to her feet with flashing eyes. "You are still thinking of her, then! She must have this; she must have that! Everything else is as dirt before her. I'll not serve her—so there! You can knock me down if you like."

"Rebecca," said Ezra slowly, "do you hate Kate Harston?"

"From the bottom of my soul," she answered. "Well, if you hate her, I tell you that I hate her a thousand times more. You thought that I

was fond of her. All that is over now, and you may set your mind at ease."

"Why do you want her so well cared for then?" asked the girl suspiciously.

"I want some one who feels towards her as I do to be by her side. If she were never to come back from Bedworth it would be nothing to me."

"What makes you look at me so strangely?" she said, shrinking away from his intense gaze. "Never mind. You go. You will understand many things in time which seem strange to you now. At present if you will do what I ask you will oblige me greatly. Will you go?"

"Yes, I will go."

"There's a good lass. Give us a kiss, my girl. You have the right spirit in you. I'll let you know when the train goes to-morrow, and I will write to my father to expect you. Now, off with you, or you'll have them gossiping downstairs. Good night!"

"Good night, Mister Ezra," said the girl, with her hand under the mantle of the library door. "You've made my heart glad this night. I live in hope."

"I wonder what the deuce she hopes about," the young merchant said to himself as she closed the door behind her. "Hopes I'll marry her, I suppose. She must be of a very sanguine disposition. A girl like that might be invaluable down at Bedworth. If we had no other need for her, she would be an excellent spy." He lay for some little time on the couch with bent brows and pursed lips, musing over the possibilities of the future.

While this dialogue had been going on in the library of Eccleston-square, Tom Dimdale was still wending his way homewards with a feeling of weight in his mind and a presentiment of misfortune which overshadowed his whole soul. In vain he assured himself that this disappearance of Kate's was but temporary, and that the rumour of an engagement between her and Ezra was too ridiculous to be believed for a moment. Argue as he would, the same deadly horrible feeling of impending trouble weighed upon him. Impossible as it was to imagine that Kate was false to him, it was strange that on the very day that this rumour reached his ears she should disappear from London. How bitterly he regretted now that he had allowed himself to be persuaded by John Girdlestone into ceasing to communicate with her. He began to realise that he had been duped, and that all these specious promises as to a future consent to their union had been so many baits to amuse him while the valuable present was slipping away. His only course was to now to repair the past.

So downcast was Tom that, on arriving at Phillimore Gardens he would have slipped off to his room at once had he not met his burly father upon the stairs. "Hed!" roared the old man upon hearing his son's proposition. "Nothing of the sort, sir. Come down into the parlour and smoke a pipe with me. Your mother has been waiting for you all the evening."

"I am sorry to be late, mother," the lad said, kissing the old lady. "I have been down at the docks all day and have been busy and worried."

Mrs. Dimdale was sitting in her chair beside the fire knitting when her son came in. At the sound of his voice she glanced anxiously up at his face, with all her motherly instincts on the alert.

"What is it, my boy?" she said. "You don't look yourself. Something has gone wrong with you. Surely you're not keeping anything secret from your old mother?"

"Don't be so foolish as that, my boy," said the doctor, after he had finished. "If you have anything on your mind, out with it. There's nothing so far wrong but that it can be set right, I'll be bound."

Thus pressed, their son told them all that had happened, the rumour which he had heard from Von Baumer at the Cock and Cowslip, and the subsequent visit to Eccleston-square. "I can hardly realise it all yet," he said in conclusion. "My head seems to be in a whirl, and I can't reason about it."

The old couple listened very attentively to his narrative, and were silent some little time after he had finished. His mother first broke the silence. "I was always sure," she said, "that we were wrong to stop our correspondence at the request of Mr. Girdlestone."

"It's easy enough to say that now," said Tom ruefully. "At the time it seemed as if we had no alternative."

"There's no use crying over spilt milk," remarked the old physician, "who had been very grave during his son's narrative. "We must set to work now and get things right again. There is one thing very certain, Tom, and that is that Kate Harston is a girl who never did or could so dishonourable thing. If she said that she would wait for you, my boy, you may feel perfectly safe; and if you doubt her for one moment you ought to be deceived well ashamed of yourself."

"Well said, governor!" cried Tom, with beaming face. "Now that is exactly my own feeling, but there is so much to be explained. Why did they leave London, and where have they gone to?"

"No doubt that your patience would soon come to an end, so he started of you by carrying the girl off to the country."

"And if he has done this, what can I do?"

"Nothing. It is entirely within his right to do it."

"And have her stowed away in some little cottage in the country, with that brute Ezra Girdlestone hanging round her all the time. It is the thought of that that drives me wild."

"You trust in her, my boy," said the old doctor. "We'll try our best to get her back to find out where she has gone to. If she is unhappy or needs a friend, you may be sure that she will write to her mother."

"There is always that hope," exclaimed Tom, in a more cheerful voice. "To-morrow I may learn something at the office."

"Don't make the mistake of quarrelling with the Girdlestons. After all, they are within their rights in doing what they appear to have done."

"They may be within their legal rights," Tom cried indignantly, "but the old man made a deliberate compact with me, which he has broken."

"Never mind. Don't give them an advantage by losing your temper." The doctor chatted away over the matter for some time, and his words, together with those of his mother, cheered the young fellow's heart. Nevertheless, after they had retired to their rooms, Dr. Dimdale continued to be very thoughtful and very grave.

"I don't like it," he said, more than once. "I don't like the idea of the poor girl being left entirely in the hands of that pair of bores. A God grant that no harm come of it, Matilda! a prayer which his good wife echoed with all the strength of her kindly nature."

(To be continued.)

PLOT TO ASSASSINATE PRINCE FERDINAND.

News from Sofia confirms the report of a plot against Prince Ferdinand as the cause for the recent arrest of Major Pantaz. It appears that the plot was a wide-spread one, and had for its object, not only the assassination of the prince, but of every member of the existing Ministry. Among those arrested, besides Pantaz, were his valet, three cavalry officers, Captain Markoff, a lawyer named Borofo, a journalist named Matloff, and a merchant, Arvanoff. These arrests were effected in and about Sofia, but other persons have been taken into custody at some provincial towns. The plot is attributed to Russian intrigue.

A REMARKABLE RAIN STORM.

The captain of the steamer Queensmore, which has arrived at Baltimore, reports that when off the coast of Newfoundland there was a remarkable rain storm, the drops being of a blood-red colour. The water, he states, soon dried on the deck, leaving a deposit of what appeared to be dust.

THE DWARF AND THE MILITARY.

While the young men in one of the southern towns of France were drawing lots for the "conscription" a few days ago quite a sensation was created by the appearance on the scene of a small fellow attired in a tunic and knickerbockers. It was imagined at first that a little boy must have slipped in for a joke, but the diminutive person comported himself with the utmost gravity, and in reply to the questions addressed to him explained that he had come in like the rest to draw his number. The little man is a bona fide dwarf, just three feet in height, and in weight rather under three stone. His diminutive stature is attributed by his affectionate relatives to an illness which overtook him when he was four years old, and has had the effect of stunting his growth ever since.

At the quarterly sale of Congo ivory, which took place at Antwerp, the whole stock was disposed of at higher prices than were obtained at the last auction in London.

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OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

A shilling in the pound, that is the dividend in the Parnell case. This is not so wide as a house or so deep as a well, but 'twill serve. The Times, by accepting the proposal made by Mr. Parnell's advisers, has handsomely acknowledged its blunder, and Mr. Parnell has not as much as any ordinary jury would probably have given him. The credit of the settlement is generally attributed to Mr. Lockwood, who recognised that the delay in instituting the action would be certain to carry weight with a special jury, and urged his clients to come to terms. There is one point in the case which does not seem to have been noticed in the press, namely, the disadvantage at which the Times stand in having been obliged to disclose their hand before the special commission. Mr. Parnell had thus scored an important point in advance, as in an ordinary action it might have been extremely difficult for him to prove Pigott a forger.

One who has seen Lord Salisbury since his illness says that he is looking rather thin and "peaky," but not so much pulled down as might have been expected. I see that in some of the papers it is actually made a complaint against him that he has not published the details of his health from day to day, and that would be a very good reason for his not doing so. The reports of the Government's health are, in fact, a very good reason for his not doing so. The reports of the Government's health are, in fact, a very good reason for his not doing so.

The constant visits of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Goschen to Hatfield are attributed to the extreme interest which the Prime Minister is taking in the Land Purchase Bill, which will be one of the first measures to be introduced. Mr. Goschen is credited with a desire to set up a land bank somewhat on the lines of the plan advocated by Mr. W. Shaw, when leader of the Irish party. A scheme of this kind has more than once been discussed in Parliament, and if combined with some local guarantee, might be the means of solving the difficulty. I understand there is no idea in the minds of the Government of putting any large risks on the English taxpayer, so that our Gladstonian friends will be doomed to disappointment if they count on raising an agitation against the bill on this ground.

Mr. Chaplin, I hear, is leading a veritable "dog's life" in St. James's-square. Every post brings him shoals of appeals, remonstrances, and even threats and denunciations, from furious maiden ladies, irate country squire, and sportsmen of all degrees against the muzzling order. Unable to convince the members of the Board of Agriculture by public argument and denunciation, they are now resorting to every kind of epistolary warfare. Some of the letters are very amusing, especially those written by the interesting canines themselves, who, in many instances, have broken out into verse—possibly doggerel. Come what may, however, the muzzle will remain until it has done its work.

Mr. Chaplin's appointment of Major Craigie as chief of the Bureau of Statistics has not received the attention it deserves. If ever the right man was found for the right post it was in this case. Major Craigie is not only an accomplished statistician, but a man of great practical acquaintance with every detail of agriculture. He has travelled all over America, examining the condition of the great wheat-growing districts, and has investigated the system of agricultural education on the continent, while as secretary of the Chamber of Agriculture he has been the adviser and friend of farmers all over the country. By his vigilance and ability he has played for many years the Local Taxation Committee, and he was greatly the means of forcing the local government question to the front, and of securing for the local rates the relief they have at last received at the hands of the Government. His appointment as director of statistics in the Ministry of Agriculture is one that secures to the country the services of a popular and able officer.

The annual business gatherings of the local political organisations take place about this time of the year, and I hear of a good deal of activity on the Conservative side, especially in South London. Lord Carmarthen, the popular member for Brixton, has returned from foreign parts, having grown a beard in the meantime, and is making a round of his committees. Mr. Kelly, at Camberwell, is doing the same and Mr. Drew, the popular candidate for West Southwark, is equally busy. There is a prospect of the formation of a strong popular Conservative organisation at Kennington, where the party has not yet quite recovered from the loss of prestige due to the proceedings of Mr. Gent-Davis. As soon as the existing associations are amalgamated, a candidate will be selected. The announcement that Mr. Foster had "retired" from the candidature is likely to give rise to misconception. He had really never been brought forward by any representative body authorised to act on behalf of the party, and would not have been expected to receive general support. A really popular candidate will be almost certain to recover the seat.

OLD IZAAK.

After an existence of nearly forty years the Marlow Thames Angling Association has had to be wound up. This decision was consequent to a special meeting of members held recently at the Complete Angler, Marlow Bridge, the headquarters of the association. The chair was occupied by Mr. F. O. Wethered, who presided over a fair attendance of members. Mr. C. M. Footitt (hon. sec.) said: "The association was nearly always largely in debt, and that when the financial year ended on the 1st of April there would be a balance on the wrong side of upwards of £25. Last year they had eighty-six members, but not one of them had contributed a penny towards keeping the association together, they would have to start on the 1st of April with only forty-five." A lengthy discussion followed, and it was agreed to at once take steps for winding up the association.

The able writer of "Notes" in the Fishery Gazette referring to the above, says:—"The collapse of the Marlow Thames Angling Association is the worst news we have had to publish for a long time. With this remark all anglers who have visited this beautiful part of our grand old river will agree; and it certainly seems a great pity that after so many years of good work it became necessary for want of monetary support and sympathy to wind up a preservation society which has done such good work in re-stocking its part of the Thames with trout. I cannot help thinking that if an earnest appeal had been made to the anglers of London (very many of whom have for years regularly fished the Marlow waters), this catastrophe might have been averted. I sincerely hope that steps will be taken to form a new society in the district, or, failing this, some effort made by the adjoining Maidenhead, Cookham, and Bray Association to extend its protection to these waters."

The third annual angling competition in aid of the funds of the Anglers' Benevolent Society will take place at the Rye House on March 23rd. A preliminary meeting of representatives from several angling clubs was held on January 23rd at the Baldwins Club, Worship-square, E.C., when a committee was formed to carry out the arrangements. It was resolved that it be a roving competition, the boundary to be named (according to the number of entries) on the morning of the competition. Competitors to meet at the Rye

House on the arrival of the train that leaves Liverpool-street Station at 9.5 a.m., to start fishing by signal, and to weigh fish in the gardens at five o'clock. Any competitor failing to attend to weigh his fish at that time to be disqualified. One rod only to be used. All fish to weigh (according to Lea measurement) with the exception of jack, eels, bleak, gudgeon, and minnows. No live-baiting or raking allowed. Tickets, one shilling each, to be had of any member of the committee and at the various angling clubs. Competitors must be members holding privilege tickets from the Anglers' Central Association, or cards of membership of the Anglers' Benevolent Society. Mr. E. Gurney, 10, Bachelors-street, Hoxton, is the hon. secretary.

A deputation from the Thames Angling Preservation Society attended on January 31st at the meeting of the Board of Thames Conservancy with reference to the proposed alterations in the bye-laws regulating angling in the river. The deputation had a pleasant interview with the chairman and members of the board, which lasted nearly one hour, but so far as I can ascertain, the whole business is likely to end in smoke. Mr. W. H. Brougham, the secretary of the Thames Angling Preservation Society, having since received a letter informing his committee that the conservators do not intend making any alterations at the present time; but at some future period, when they may be making fresh bye-laws affecting other interests, they will be prepared to consider some of the suggestions put forward.

The annual winter supper of that popular suburban club, the Richmond Piscatorialists, took place at the Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, on Wednesday evening. Mr. Montague Davenport, C.C., was in the chair, supported by nearly forty members. Mr. F. C. Moutlet placed upon the table a very excellent spread, which gave great satisfaction. On the removal of the cloth the loyal toasts were cordially given by the chairman. The chairman then gave "The Richmond Piscatorial Society" in well-chosen words, mentioning the remarks, that he thought the name of the society ought to be altered to the Twickenham and Richmond Piscatorial Society, as by far the largest number of members hailed from the latter. There was some good singing interspersing the toasts, and altogether the evening was a most enjoyable one.

Angling for the past few days has been carried on under much improved condition of weather and water. W. Millbourne, the well-known and reliable professional fisherman of East Molesey, writing on Tuesday evening last, says:—"The water fell 2ft. 2in. yesterday, is clearing rapidly, and will be in good order for all-round fishing by the end of the week." A fine specimen pike is said to have shown himself several times in this neighbourhood, and anglers desirous of dropping a line to this fish, which is said to be 20lb. or upwards in weight, cannot do better than secure the services of W. Millbourne or his son, Tom, as pilot. The tide-way anglers have been doing well amongst the roach, dace, and a few bream, especially the bank anglers, many of whom have made really good bags of dace.

Some members of the Hoxton Brothers were out at the Rye House on the 26th January, fishing for several prizes, five of which were won. The Dalston Angling Society fished a roving match at Burnt Mill. The day was very boisterous, and only three out of the seven prizes offered were won. The Havelock Angling Society fished for several prizes to day (Sunday), from Rye House to St. Margaret's.

PIPER PAN.

Miss Anne Huntington's sudden relinquishment of her lucrative engagement at the Prince of Wales' Theatre as the hero, Wilfrid, of the comic opera "Marjorie," has caused quite a sensation in musical and theatrical circles. I have received private letters from the popular prima donna and the management, and cannot at present form a definite judgment of the case, having thus far only Miss Huntington's statement on the one hand, and the promise of a refutation on the other. While waiting for the latter, I think it only fair to record the reasons given by Miss Huntington for the course she has adopted.

Briefly stated, Miss Huntington's reasons are that she undertook the rôle of Wilfrid on the condition that it should be re-written, and changed from a tenor to a contralto part; that this alteration was not made; that she had to sing a number of tenor notes quite unsuited to her voice, only a few trifling alterations having been made in the original tenor music; and that she found her voice likely to be injured, if not destroyed, were she to continue her impersonation of Wilfrid.

Planquette's "Cloches de Corneville" is about to be revived, with two members of the original cast when Mr. Farnie's English adaptation was first produced at the Globe Theatre. Mr. Shiel Barry will resume the rôle of the Miser, in which, on the first night, he made one of the greatest successes I ever witnessed. To his great regret, he was suffering from a terrible cold, but the business of his voice in the famous treasure scene imparted a remarkable gaiety to his utterances, and fairly thrilled me. Five years later, I again saw him in the same rôle, and was disappointed. He acted well, but had not provided himself with that invaluable cold.

Mr. Ashford will resume his original part, Gobo. I dare say that many of my readers will be surprised to learn that there is no such character in the original work as Gobo; it was interpolated by Farnie, who "touched nothing that he did not" transmute more or less. Gobo is simply an excrement and a hindrance to the action, but the part was enlivened by Mr. Ashford's drollery.

Some weeks back I mentioned in this column that Offenbach never wrote an opera entitled "The Rose of Auvergne," which was the title given by Farnie to his adaptation of Offenbach's opera, "La Fête de St. Flour." This was misprinted "La Fête de St. Flour," and I have been reminded, by "good-natured friends," that no opera bearing the latter title was ever written by Offenbach. I was quite aware of this fact.

The Dundee Advertiser gives a copious notice, well written and exhaustive, of the successful concert given by Madame Marie Roze at the Kinraid Hall. This is supplemented in Yankee fashion by a second and very flippant notice, by "our lady correspondent," who offers superfluous criticisms of the concert, and says that she noticed a very pretty gown (sic) come from one of the red cloaks; "also, that Madame Marie Roze's petticoat was 'studded all over with glittering motifs of rainbow-hued passementerie.' A petticoat studded all over with motives must be a sentient garment."

The directors of the Philharmonic Society have generously decided to admit a limited number of professional musical students, on almost nominal terms, to the Philharmonic Concerts.

A London committee has been formed—chairman, Sir George Grove—to assist in purchasing the house at Brun in which Beethoven was born. I should like to know how often Germans have aided us in similar undertakings?

The one hundred and fifty-second anniversary festival of the Royal Society of Musicians is fixed for March 4th, when the Lord Mayor will preside. I learn that during last year this noble society expended nearly £4,000 in providing for the widows and orphans of musicians and in solacing the declining years of its poorest members. Of the £3,500, we may justly feel proud.

Vocal criticism, still rampant in Italy, is said to be extinct in France. The last of the chief blackmailing French critics was Fiorentino, of whom Victor Maurel (the brilliant lacer of Verdi's

"Otello") told me the following characteristic story:—"An operatic tenor, in his declining days, called on his old friend Fiorentino, and after the usual embrace implored him to attend the opera on the following Tuesday, when the tenor would make his re-appearance. Fiorentino said, 'I am not sure that I shall be able to attend.' At what hour will you sing the grand scena?' 'At nine o'clock.' 'At nine o'clock? But how shall I be sure to be there?' 'Unfortunately, I have no watch.' 'Have no fear, dear friend, on that score. You shall have a watch.' Two hours later Fiorentino received a handsome gold watch.

On the following Sunday, when the manager of the opera "received" his leading artists and other visitors, the salon was crowded, when Fiorentino entered with a long thick string round his neck. Every one, except the tenor, laughed, and the manager asked Fiorentino what he meant by wearing such a ridiculous watch-chain? Fiorentino replied, showing the watch, "The idiot who sent me this watch forgot to send the chain." Of course, the unhappy "idiot" sent a gold chain next day.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

A few years ago there was such a glut of ostrich eggs in the London market that tolerably sized ones could be bought for 9d. each. That price being unremunerative to the importers, the supply fell off and the market value increased proportionately. I see the recent one ticketed half-crown each at Gardiner's shop in Oxford-street. Their smooth surface lends itself to painting in oil, and when neatly bisected, they can be fashioned into very beautiful cups. The shell is not very fragile.

How, I wonder, do blind men educate their dogs to halt at crossings until it is safe to pass over? That the animals do this is unquestionable; I have seen it happen a score of times. Perhaps they are originally trained by people blessed with eyesight. But I cannot recollect ever having seen such a curious spectacle as a person with full powers of vision being led about by a dog. However they may come by their education, they are certainly marvels of sagacity and affection. There is something truly touching in the solemnity with which they ploy along, looking neither to the right or to the left, but intent only on the care of their helpless masters.

There is, it appears, an even more dangerous snake in India than the cobra. It is called by the natives the "foorah" and has almost an insignificant appearance, being only a foot long and very sluggish in its movements. But it is this very torpidity which causes the reptile to be so perilous. It will lie quite still until trodden upon, but then it strikes with lightning speed, and its bite is always fatal. The report from which I have gathered these details states that a very large proportion of the deaths from snake bite in the Kathnagherry district are due to the contemptible-looking "foorah."

Embalmed cat is, it appears, the latest fad for English felines. A consignment of nineteen tons of feline mummies has just reached Liverpool from Egypt, the poor dead defunct having been dug out of their graves, I suppose. What a start it would give any farmer using this manure if his acres, instead of yielding green crops, were to produce an innumerable multitude of kittens! That would stop the rat plague, at all events.

It appears that I have to apologise to "W. D. D." for considering that he had been hoaxed with reference to the skinned rat he found in one of his traps. Several correspondents have written to me on the subject. It must be noticed that I in no way doubted the fact of rats or mice devouring one another. To do so would, of course, be absurd, as their cannibalisation is too well known to be disputed. What excited my wonder was that the job should have been executed so carefully and neatly. "X. Y. Z." kindly writes to say that he has often found parts of the skins and tails of rats in the traps, that is, of course, a common occurrence, and my correspondent was mistaken in thinking that it was that which astonished me. On the other hand, "Rodent" writes that, having once thrown a dead rat out on the snow, he found its skin clean and complete in an out-house, evidently stripped in the manner described by "W. D. D.," and with no blood about. The foot marks of the cannibal could be plainly seen in the snow. Mr. Jeffrey, too, says that he has often found similar perfect skins of dormice in the cages of some pet ones, which were as cleanly skinned as if prepared by a dressmaker. Similar evidence comes from Mr. Byron, who found a rat perfectly skinned in this way in a trap in his pantry.

A correspondent at Nice writes:—"Last year, you will remember, I sent you a few jottings about this place. On returning again some days ago I made a short excursion to the Riviera, and, as I had no acquaintance with my amusing friend, the raven, who was always to be found there, I searched for him in his usual haunts, but found without success. At last I met an old fishwife, who told me that the raven was at the end of the pier, and I went there, and lo! there he was, perched on the top of a fish stall. His death caused quite a sensation, he was such a general favourite. I was told that Baron Henry de Worms and many others who were staying here at the time used to feed him daily, and he was exhibited on the shore by some sailors. Jack is much the same all the world over, and I could not help thinking of his brethren at home at some of our water-pipes, with a very 'high' porpoise on a barrow, earning a goodly sum by exhibiting a cockney, a very respectable specimen, and would be an ugly customer to meet out bathing. The natives here declare that the introduction of these unwelcome visitors is entirely due to the Suez Canal."

My obliging correspondent goes on to comment on the strong resemblance between the shark and the dog-fish, and wishes to know whether it arises from relationship or not. They are very closely connected indeed, both belonging to the same order, the plagiostomata, of which there are some fifteen families. One of these families contains the true sharks, another the basking shark and some other species, another the various kinds of dog-fish, and so on. The first nine of these families are considered so closely related to each other that they are usually grouped into a sub-order by themselves. They contain among others the sharks and the dog-fishes, so it can be seen that these two families are first cousins, at all events. The other sub-order contains the saw-fish, the rays, skates, &c.

"P. F. E." kindly informs us that last week he saw a fine sea-gull, evidently very tired, and probably driven by the recent gales, just by the Brecknock, in the Camden-road. It attempted to settle in the road for an instant, but then flew on.

THE ACTOR.

The success secured by the new programme at the Avenue Theatre has given great pleasure to Mr. Alexander's friends, whose name is legion. The new lessee and manager of the Embankment playhouse is probably one of the most popular of actors, not only among the public, but in private. With his handsome face he has had something to do, but more powerful still in securing goodwill for him have been his pleasant manner and his great good nature, neither of which have been affected by prosperity.

My own acquaintance with Mr. Alexander dates back to the days before he was in his teens, when, however, it was not difficult to see that he already had in him the makings of an artist. The histrionic faculty was evidently strong in him. He was a "dab" at comic songs, not only singing with great gusto, but delivering them in character, dressing himself up for the part he was to play, and providing himself with appropriate "properties."

Mr. Alexander's very first appearance on the stage—the amateur stage—was made in a little, mythological burlesque in which I myself had a

hand, and in which he was eminently successful. It was performed on a raised platform in the T. B. Back Drawing-room, from which many a theatrical career has been cited.

At the first performance in London of "A Noble Brother" there was one point on which the brothers were all agreed—namely, that whatever might be said about the piece, the "leading lady," Miss Ellen Boucher (whom nobody appeared to have seen before), was very engaging and promising young actress. I was told that she came of good family, had taken to the stage through pressure of circumstances, and had appeared at one time, in an unimportant rôle, at the Haymarket. But I do not vouch for any of these statements.

Of the principals in "Cinderella" at her Majesty's one of the few who have found immediate employment elsewhere is Mr. John Le Hay, who has returned to the Lyric Theatre and taken up the part of Private Smith in "The Red Hussar." Other changes in the casts are those of Miss Corney (Mrs. Jecks) for Mrs. W. Sidney, and of Mr. Alec Marsh for Mr. Collins. What a sterling artist Miss Corney is to be sure. It seems a few years since I last saw her, as Mrs. Partlett, the peer-singer in "The Sorcerer." The Lyric is Mr. Marsh's second theatrical home; his first was the Avenue. But he still has much to learn as an actor.

Clever as is young Mr. Thalberg, at the Vaudeville, the most famous of the English Lovelaces (in "Clara's") will always be the late Charles James Mathews, who essayed the rôle of the Princess's more than forty years ago. Mr. Dutton Cook, who saw Mathews in the part, has left a graphic description of him in it. He looked very handsome, and bore well his bag wig and lace. He played also "with unusual care, calm and composed, avoiding levity and dizziness, and fairly exhibiting the unworthiness of Lovelace, but failing, wisely to convey the passion animating him." That was always Mathews's defect; he could not portray emotion.

Miss Cissy Graham's popularity as a manageress (at Terry's) is likely, I should say, to rival that of Mr. Alexander as a manager. She is pretty and clever and vivacious, and shines in the comic and the pathetic—note her performances in "The Bungalow" and in "Barbara." She is still some distance on this side of the "thirties," and her mother (Miss M. A. Giffard, also an admirable actress) is proportionately youthful. Miss Graham is married to a young solicitor, whose good taste is visible in the arrangement of the room in which the second scene of "New Lamps for Old" is played.

It will probably turn out that the authorities at the Criterion have done very wisely in securing Mr. W. D. D. for the rôle of Talbot in "Master and Man." His comic well in "Master and Man" was a revelation of humorous ability, and I can fancy him a very funny Talbot, amusing, yet gentlemanly. Up to this time, the best Talbot I have ever seen was Mr. E. W. Giffard (singular similarity between the names!). When Mr. Giffard was the Talbot and Miss Fanny Brough the Mary Melrose, the scenes in which those two artists were engaged used to go with a roar.

In "My Brother's Sister," in which she is to be seen in London so soon, Miss Minnie Palmer plays a sort of quadruple rôle—that is to say, she figures first as a bootblack, next as a society belle, thirdly as a naval cadet, and lastly in her own real character in the piece as Nadine, the daughter of an old French nobleman. Her first entrance is very diverting—look out for it.

GENERAL CHATTER.

Beware of gasolines, ye lovers of aerated waters! I have had a big one in use for some time, but never more wild I give harbourage to such a veritable "internal machine." The other afternoon it exploded, without rhyme or reason, about an hour after it had been re-charged. So loud was the report that the servants came running up from the kitchen, imagining that a gun had been fired in the dining-room. The heavy plated top was projected to a considerable distance, while the thick glass receptacle would have scattered its fragments all over the room but for the protecting wire net. And so went one pound sterling; but we have every cause to be thankful that the loss stopped there. Our little girl, who was sitting near, might easily have suffered severe injury.

What a sad pity it is that when the present Parliament House was built, sufficient space was not left in front for the prolongation of the Victoria Embankment. Of course, the Embankment was not thought of in those days; it did not enter into the minds of Londoners to conceive that the time was at hand when the hideous mud banks would be converted into the finest drive and promenade in London. It would be a delightful thing could one walk by the river side the whole way from Blackfriars to Chelsea and Battersea, without once having to turn inland.

The Church House scheme affords an illustration of the excellence of old Mr. Lincoln's sovereign specific, "pegging away." A more disastrous start could not easily have been made; it came at once into sharp competition with the Imperial Institute subscription list, and was completely obscured by that grand undertaking. Not discouraged, the promoters kept on "pegging away" to such good purpose that they have already gathered in more than £70,000, while the annual subscriptions average about £3,500. All the same, the project has not much grip on the laity or on the rural clergy.

It is no matter for wonder that the clerks in the Savings Bank Department are almost ready to strike. Their grievance appears to be a just one; while an extra hour of toil is demanded from them daily, they are only to receive half payment for it. That is not fair. The State has a right, of course, to make what bargain it can with new members, but no right whatever to impose fresh conditions of service on old hands without their consent. Even the most grasping private employer would hesitate to take action on such avicious lines.

A word to Mr. Monro. "Molestation" is reviving at the West-end. I myself have been lately subjected to this nuisance in Regent-street as early as 8 p.m. Later on, one has to run the gauntlet in more streets than that, and the odds are that solicitation will be followed by filthy abuse. I quite recognise the difficulty of suppressing this abomination, but it might be diminished, at all events, by a little wholesome action on the part of Scotland Yard.

What has become of the half-sovereign coinage? If one has to change a sovereign in payment of some small purchase, the odds are that the shopkeeper will apologise for having nothing but silver. There is a rumour that this is Mr. Goschen's doing, it being alleged that he finds it more profitable to coin silver than gold. It is so, of course; gold retains its full value, but silver can be purchased for very much less than the value it obtains when coined.

There are not many professions more lucrative than that of the successful "crammer." A friend tells me of some who are making quite fabulous incomes out of it. A "crammer" who has made a good reputation by exceptional success will sometimes have 300 or 400 pupils on his books, almost all paying heavy charges. As he neither boards nor lodges them, his expenditure is limited to the cost of his teaching staff, house rent, and advertising. It is, of course, however, to these gentlemen to say that they often behave in a kindly by accepting pupils at very much reduced terms to benefit parents in narrow circumstances. Many instances of that sort have come to my own knowledge.

The proprietors of the Times are, fortunately for

themselves, very wealthy, or the enormous expense of their legal proceedings in connection with Mr. Parnell would have brought them to the workhouse. The total bill must run, I should imagine, to some hundreds of thousands, a heavy price to pay for free criticism. Yet, even from a purely business point of view, the money is well spent. It has revived the former influence of the leading journal, and has, probably, doubled its circulation.

It is said that Mr. Barnum offered Mr. Gladstone his own terms to go on a lecturing tour in the United States, but the flattering proposal was declined, as a matter of course. The enterprising Yankee showman is now anxious, it is rumoured, to secure one of the royal princes or princesses for a starring tour, being convinced that it would prove a most paying speculation. By the way, there is talk in the air that another of the Heri Apparent's daughters has set her affections on a nobleman, who responds with all his heart. That would be a sore disappointment to certain boggary German princelings, who look upon marriage into our royal house as a sort of vested interest.

In spite of the increased accommodation provided by the Duke of Bedford at Covent Garden, the crush on market days is nearly as bad as ever. Not in the market on either side; the neighbouring streets equally suffer from increasing congestion of traffic. The trade sets its face, I understand, against decentralisation, or the obvious remedy would be to establish a number of supplementary markets in the area now supplied by "the Garden."

MR. WHEELER.

Now that the Stanley Show is over, makers are counting up the orders they have received. On the whole, they seem to be reasonably well satisfied; but there is some complaint that the demand for the more expensive sorts of machines is not what it used to be. Exactly so; that is precisely what I have repeatedly predicted. The rich few are fully supplied; the poor many must now be catered for. I believe that good business now belongs to any maker who produced only one model in each type of machine, and while selling it at a moderate price for cash, guaranteed its lasting quality with fair usage.

Often has it been replied to me, when recommending a friend to invest in some particular machine, "But it must be rubbish, or why should the maker charge so much more for other machines which do not look a bit stronger or faster." It is difficult to convince innocents of this sort that "superior finish" and the lightness resulting from the use of super-excellent materials account for the difference in cost. But a maker who only offers a safety, or a standard, or a tricycle, or a one-tandem in stock, and who disparaging comparisons could not be made.

Military cycling is certainly looking up, thanks mainly to the gallant pertinacity with which Colonel Savile has stuck to his idea. The muster roll of the 26th Middlesex is filling up steadily; among other recruits, Mr. Harry Youns, the indefatigable secretary of the West Roads Club, has joined its blue-coated ranks. I am sorry to hear that some Volunteer commanders refuse to see which way the cat is jumping, and discourage the formation of cyclist sections. They cannot know much about the practice of the military art, however well up they may be in the theory; or they would not be blind to the essential qualities of wheelmen as the eyes and ears of any force not fully furnished with cavalry.

While on this subject I should like to eradicate from the minds of cyclists the notion that the work required of the 26th Middlesex is exceptionally trying. That is no longer the case, if it ever was; the longest day's march is thirty miles, and that, too, at a moderate pace. On giving this information to a young wheelman who was half inclined to join the corps, he replied, "Why, I understood that Colonel Savile never took his men for less than a sixty miles spin, at an average of ten miles an hour throughout."

Two or three correspondents have lately asked me to prescribe for badly rusted plates. They put their machines by at the beginning of winter, without taking the trouble to lubricate the corroding parts, and now, of course, the rust has eaten right in. I know of no cure when that is the case, except re-plating. But before resorting to that expensive remedy, trial should be made with plenty of elbow grease, the rubber being a piece of coarse flannel well oiled. Plate powder removes rust almost more expeditiously, but it also removes the plating at the same time. Machines never ought to be allowed to get into such a deplorable condition.

Having personally experimented with the various signalling appliances I give judgment in favour of the bell. The noise it makes is not only considerably the loudest, but by far the most startling. Bells may be mistaken for the music of the muffled man, while whistles are apt to pass unnoticed by the light-hearted pedestrians. But even the most absent old lady who ever mooned over a crossing would be brought back to this world by the blast of a cyclotron. The noise is hideous? Exactly so; that is just why I give the instrument the preference.

It is a matter for wonder that our great public schools have not yet added cycling to the list of accredited sports. A good number of the boys at some of them are accomplished in the art, but one never hears of any inter-school competitions, as at cricket, football, tennis, and rifle shooting. The average British boy is an ultra-conservative in all matters of sport. Any new form, however meritorious in itself, provokes his animosity on the sole ground of its newness, and he votes it "low," "bad form," or "rot" until the older generation has taken it up heartily. Another reason for the absence of cycle-racing from school sports is the lack of training grounds. The play fields do not lend themselves to wheeling.

Whether are knee breeches or knickerbockers the better garment for the masculine cyclist? It is largely a matter of individual opinion; I have tried both, and, on the whole, rather prefer knickerbockers. For one thing, they last longer; for another, they have a better look, when the rider has dismounted and is taking a stroll. But they should not be so loose as to wrinkle between the saddle and the thigh, or gold-beater's skin will have to be exhibited.

When noticing the Stanley Show, I omitted to mention the costly machine built by the Coventry machinists' Company for the Emperor of Morocco. The body was that of a highly ornamental hansom cab, but the method of propulsion was by means of four nigger cyclists sitting behind. A beautiful toy, but that is all; I doubt whether it will ever be used. The roads in Morocco are so heavy and rough, that it would require very many more than four natives to get up any pace on such a heavy machine. It will probably be kept in some out-house until it falls to pieces with rust.

Much indebted am I to Mr. Todd, the captain of the famous Southgate C.C., for pointing out a slip of the pen in my last week's notes, where I credited Mr. Holbein with doing his famous ride of 324 miles on a "geared facile." He rode a Premier, by Hillman, Herbert, and Cooper, and that occasion, as he always does. It was Mr. Shorland who did a wonderful performance on the geared Facile when riding from London to Edinburgh. Both of these brilliant performers are members of the Southgate Club. The longest twenty-four hours' record of the geared Facile is 207 miles; that of the Premier, 324 miles.

"SAFETY"—Clearance Bargains. 600 Billed Machines from £4 10s. Special Prices to Agents. "Cyclotron" Safeties; Bells All Round, Sold, only for 1999 New and Second Hand. Prices, Lists, etc. East, Cycle Agency, 10, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4. Tel. 200. Bicycles from £2 10s. Tricycles, 20s. Riding Machines, 30s. up to £10 0s. "Cyclotron," 24, Blackfriars Road, London, E.C. 4.

THE THEATRES.

OPERA COMIQUE.

Mr. H. S. Lonsdale, when on Monday night he re-opened the Opera Comique to play the new drama, "A Noble Brother," for a fortnight, certainly made a just estimate of the time the piece was likely to run. A thoroughly conventional drama, commonplace in character and incident, strangely mingled with banjo performances and nigger breakdowns for the special exploitation of its most prominent personage, Jerry the Tramp, played by Mr. Summers, is scarcely the quality of piece calculated to attract and entertain an educated audience. Poor stuff as it was, the play served to introduce to the rather sparse array of spectators a pleasing and capable actress in Miss Boucher, whose ability is certain to cause her to be seen and heard again, and it may be hoped, under less adverse conditions. "Les Cloches de Corneville" is to be revived at the end of the second week, when, as an attraction, it may be fairly expected to renew its already long lease of popular favour.

CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.

The entertainment at present provided at this theatre, under the direction of Messrs. G. A. Payne and J. A. Tressider, is of a very interesting kind. The chief feature of the programme is given by Mr. Paul Martinetti and his company of pantomimists, who appear in a mirth-moving piece, entitled "Paris Night in Night." In this too much attention has not been bestowed upon the plot, the object of the author having apparently been to afford as much scope as possible for the introduction of that capital pantomime for which this accomplished troupe has such a deserved reputation. The fun is extended over four scenes, and is of an exhilarating nature. Messrs. Hercules and Samson are the "strong men," and although it is thought that the craze for muscular prodigies is declining, the exhibition of their unusual strength here on Monday last was evidently what a great number of the audience had assembled to see. Surry-siders will, doubtless, be glad to see Walter Cole, the centre of attraction with his merry folks, and his entire recitation, entitled "Secrets in London Town," delivered by Mrs. Bennett, the popular member of the Surrey company. Miss Lydia Yeamans gives with good effect "Come into the Garden, Maud," and "The Lifeboat," and Mr. Titus, who usually accompanies this agreeable vocalist, contributes some well-rendered selections. "Uncle Yank" is the title of a smart pantomimic sketch, interpreted by Mr. Mannons. The musical portion of it is especially praiseworthy, and so, too, is the dancing. La Petite Bouteille executes some neat transformation dances. Mr. T. and Miss B. Brantford are very dexterous in their American variety business. Messrs. H. Anderson and G. Belverly ably acquit themselves as comic vocalists. The Kelino troupe tender an effective acrobatic act, and other important features are forthcoming from Miss K. Harvey, the Ethelred troupe, and Mlle. Elie Stuart.

The editor of Truth, who dearly loves—if he loves anything—to detect and cite errors of statement committed by other journalists, exhibits his own ignorance in matters theatrical in the current issue of his paper a ter a manner which has fairly turned the little laugh of mockery against himself. In his notice of "Dr. Bill," produced at the Avenue last week, this most scolding of censors states circumstantially that the piece in question is an adaptation of the tragical drama, "La Lutte Pour la Vie," now running in Paris, whereas, in point of fact, it is an English version of Carré and Deslandes' roarin' farce, "Le Docteur Jo Jo," played at the Cluny Theatre a couple of years ago. The stupid mistake is intensified by the following comment:—"When I saw 'La Lutte Pour la Vie' in French, I doubted whether, amusing as it was, it would bear adaptation into English. Mr. Hamilton Adé has, however, transmuted it, and whilst the tune remains, all that might be objectionable has been eliminated." Now one of two things is certain—the critic in question did not see "La Lutte Pour la Vie," or, if he did, he could not understand it or the language in which it was given. Q.E.D.—Dr. Westland Marston bequeathed by will a complete set of his printed works and plays to each of his following friends:—Mr. P. J. Bailey, the author of "Festus"; Mr. Joseph Knight, Mr. William Ford, Mr. Frank Arnold (better known as Mr. Frank Archer) the actor, Mr. C. J. Dunphy, Miss Minnie Lovell, Miss Marian James, Miss Glyn (the late Mrs. Dallas), and Mrs. Crank.—The Mahomedans of Bombay have put forth an edict against indulging in the drama as being a standing sin against their faith, in which they fine professing followers of the Prophet for going to the theatre—five rupees for the first offence, ten rupees for the second, and for the third excommunication with ultimate refusal of the rites of burial. One hundred thousand Indian Moslems have already accepted the edict, and it will be asked, Why? Solely because Mahomed has been made to figure as a character in a new play lately produced in Paris. The result of this anathema of the Indian playhouses will be to shut them up, the Mahomedans having hitherto formed the major portion of the audience. So much for bigotry, which, it appears, is found rampant quite outside of Christian temples.—In a speech last delivered by Mr. Charles Wyndham, as guest of the Twentieth Century Club, New York, the lively actor, precluded, as he said, from boasting of the successes of his life, treated his audience to a narrative of his failures. The first of these was at a Dissenting school as a preacher, when the only convert he made insisted on ousting him from the pulpit. The next was in his resolve to enter the Army, a resolution barred by his mother. Then, having studied medicine in Dublin and got his degree, he tried to practise, but could not get for want of patients. After that he went to the American war, and served on the Federal side as a surgeon. The war over, and his doctor's work with it, he started in the States as a journalist and dramatic critic, and in that capacity, anonymously, of course, wrote himself up as an actor. "Self-praise is no recommendation," proved to be a false axiom in his case, for, on the strength of his own puff the writer was actually engaged at a New York theatre, at which, in his earlier efforts, he was "crossed" by the audience. But, sticking to his work, he at last put his foot down firmly on the stage and won the histrionic spurs he has from that time won so well. The rest is stage history.—Mr. Arthur Roberts has been out of the bill of the Royalty for several nights, invalided by an affection of the throat, for which his doctor prescribes absolute rest.—"Isolda" is the name of a one-act serious play, by the author of "The Bungalow," which is to precede that piece when, on the departure of Mr. Toole, it is intended to be revived in the programme of Toole's Theatre.—The representative of a contemporary who has lately "interviewed" the Staffordshire potters, bears witness to the realistic truthfulness of the firing-house scene as presented with such vivid intensity by Mr. Willard, as Cyrus Bicknart, in "The Middleman."—Mrs. Langtry is happily better in respect of the inflammation of the lungs, but the severity of the bronchial attack still continues.—Mr. Walter Firth's new play, "The Home Guard," will shortly be tested at a Comedy matinee, with a cast including the Misses Gertrude Kingston, Witty, and Eva Moore, with Messrs. Gardiner, Nutcombe, Gould, and F. Rodney.—The pantomime season at the Grand, the Strand, the Pavilion, the Standard, and the Stratford Theatres will come to a close on the 15th inst.—M. Bruet and Madame Riviere, the celebrated continental dictionists, who appeared with great success at the Folies Parisiennes during the Paris Exhibition, have been exclusively engaged to appear at the Alhambra on Monday.

MR. TOOLE AND THE GREEN ROOM CLUB.

Mr. J. L. Toole was entertained on Wednesday night by the members of the Green Room Club at a supper at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly. Mr. Bancroft occupied the chair, and was supported on the right by the most and the left by Mr. Irving, who, in company, nearly 200 in number, included the Earl of Londesborough, Mr. Beerholm Tree, Mr. Willard, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Thomas Thorne, Mr. Arthur Cecil, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Fernandez, Mr. E. Righton, Mr. Charles Dickens, Mr. Clement Scott, Mr. B. L. Farjeon, Mr. Henry Howe, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. J. Billington, Mr. Alfred Bishop, Mr. Gilbert Farquhar, Mr. Bram Stoker, Mr. Henry Hamilton, Mr. George Edwards, Mr. Leslie, Mr. A. Van Buren, Mr. Brown Howard, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. E. C. Caron, Mr. Barnes, Mr. B. Paveman, Mr. Arthur Dacre, Mr. J. L. Shine, Mr. Harry Nichols, and Mr. Delacher. The chairman, in proposing the toast of "Our Guest," said: "You need no reminder from me that our dear friend is a real good fellow—(cheers)—simple words enough, but full of meaning. Is there any one who has now for years and years given greater fun and pleasure to his countrymen than our guest? (Cheers.) His name is known and welcomed with delight throughout the land. He has had his reward here, a reward that has been more than deserved; and, without doubt, he will be received with open arms in the great colonies he is about to visit, and where he will find himself almost as much at home as he is in the Strand. (Cheers.) We are more privileged than his great world of friends—the public—for it is not only the actor whom we, his comrades, know—it is the man (hear, hear). Forgive me if for a moment I forget my duty. Many of us have known Mr. Toole when the decrees of stern fate have made his life sorrowful. It is the privilege of friendship to sympathize with such sorrows. (Hear, hear.) I truly believe there are few among us who could not take a lasting lesson from the blameless life of Mr. Toole. You know the old saying, that 'Listeners never hear any good of themselves,' but were our guest to play Paul Pry for the rest of his private life, I venture to think that wherever he might appear (laughter)—he would never hear one single word against himself. (Cheers.) I have heard it said that our guest is a jealous person. I really do not think it a fraction more so than any other calling; but, anyhow, our guest would be the exception, for certainly no one ever was, no one ever is, no one ever will be, jealous of him. (Cheers.) Mr. Toole responded in a humorous speech, and the health of the chairman was proposed by Mr. Irving, who said: "It is a duty which I have undertaken with the greatest cheerfulness, and so, indeed, that when I requested certain members of the club in the evening to remove the body of Citizen Latour, I believe I added, 'And mind you put it carefully in the chair at the Green Room Club.' (Laughter.) What can one say of Mr. Bancroft's career which is not thoroughly known to all of you? There never was an instance where thoroughness and perseverance in connection with one's calling were more deservedly rewarded. In conjunction with that gifted lady, who was the genius of English comedy for so many years—(cheers)—he has pulsed a system of management which has dominated our stage ever since, and the principle of which may be described as the harmony of realism and art. More than that, he discovered a dramatist who gave faithful expression to that ideal, and whose best work, as we have had recent proof, has not lost in twenty years its vitality and charm. (Cheers.) Then Mr. Bancroft's management is associated with the early successes of some notable artists. In the old Prince of Wales's Theatre, John Henry became famous. (Cheers.) It was here that Ellen Terry's Portia first charmed the world—(cheers)—and it was there that Marie Wilton and Sydney Bancroft have identified with types of character which have not yet lost their hold on the public. (Cheers.) I put Mr. Bancroft's claims in the fewest possible words, but I am quite certain that the man of whom such things can be said is sure of a remarkable place in the history of our calling. (Cheers.)

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

KENSINGTON (N. Rth).—Mr. E. Routledge, who was the Gladstonian candidate, having accepted an invitation to stand for the Ayr Burghs, it is believed that Mr. F. C. Fry, who represents the division on the London County Council, will succeed Mr. Routledge as the Gladstonian candidate.

DEVONPORT (TARISS).—Mr. Hugh Luttrell, of Dunster Castle, West Somerset, was on Wednesday adopted as the Gladstonian candidate.

AVR.—Mr. H. G. Reid has declined to become the Gladstonian candidate, and Mr. Edmund Routledge has accepted the position.

SERVANT GIRLS AND THEIR LOVERS.

At the Westminster Police Court, Sampson Fry, builder, of Marlborough-road, Chelsea, was summoned before Mr. D'Eyncourt for detaining a diamond ring and gold pin, value £10 10s., the property of Mr. George Elphinstone Keith, residing at 14, Hans-place, Chelsea. The jewellery merchant was given to the defendant by a young woman, named Annie Baxter, to whom it was said he was paying his addresses. Baxter was in Mr. Keith's service, and interrogated as to the missing articles in consequence of a letter which defendant addressed to complainant, she admitted that she had stolen them. The girl moreover told her employer that she had been engaged to Fry, but had made the discovery that he was a married man. Defendant said he should like to know who the girl was not brought to the court.—Mr. Keith said she was an old servant of the family, had had a lot of trouble, and was in ill-health. She had recently left him, and he had decided not to prosecute her.—Letters written to Mr. Keith were read, in which the determination was expressed to keep the things until ordered to restore them by a legal tribunal.—Defendant said he wanted the girl in the witness-box, that was all. "Why should she not be brought here?" asked the magistrate. "I have stated her reasons for not prosecuting her, it is not disputed that she made you presents of another's property, and you had better give them up.—Eventually defendant, at the suggestion of the magistrate, gave up the ring and pin without any formal order.—At the Highbury Police Court, a fashionably-dressed man, giving the name of Charles Lawrence Henderson, but who refused his address, was charged in a warrant with that, being the base of a gold watch, the property of Miss Minnie Hall, a domestic servant who had been taken from her pocket, he admitted it, but told her the dome was only metal, and if she would allow him he would have a gold dome put in for her. She entrusted the watch to him, but had never been able to get it back.—Mr. Bodkin, to enable the police to complete their inquiries in the other cases, remanded the prisoner in custody.

SUCCESS OF THE ELECTRIC TRAM-CARS.

It would seem that the experiment of electrical traction on the Barking section of the N. Rth Metropolitan Tramways has given satisfaction. The cost was 4½d. per mile, including drivers' wages, and this sum, the chairman informed shareholders, was below the average for horse traction. This was stated to be the most successful installation of electrical work yet accomplished in the kingdom. In twelve months the company carried 66,000,000 passengers, and they found the penny fares a great success, as the dividend, at the rate of 9½ per cent., seems to show.

THE ISLINGTON MURDER.

Police Court Proceedings. Thomas Neal, 63, a bricklayer, of 61, St. Peter's street, Islington, was charged on a r-m-and, before Mr. Horace Smith, at the Clerkenwell Police Court, on the 24th inst., by stabbing her in the neck with some sharp instrument, on the morning of the 28th inst. Mr. Sims prosecuted on behalf of the Treasury.—The evidence of Mrs. Waterman (the landlady of the house), given at the last hearing of the case, was read over. Further questioned, the witness said that when the prisoner ran out of the house, after committing the murder, he was wearing a round hat, similar to the one produced. The evidence of Dr. Cogan, hospital surgeon, and of Constable Huntly, was also read over, and the witnesses were bound over to make their statements at the trial. The doctor added that the knife found upon the prisoner might have caused the wounds upon the neck of the deceased. There were stains upon the blue blade of the knife, which appeared to be blood-stained. Upon the hat produced by the police, which he believed to be under part of the bone, he had made a post mortem examination of Mrs. Neal, and found a small abrasion on the left shoulder, and on the left side of the neck an incised wound an inch and a half long. The external jugular vein was entirely severed, and one of the facial veins was cut. The copious bleeding from the principal wound was the cause of death. There was also a stab on the right breast, which reached one of the ribs. That wound would probably have been a mortal one had it not been stopped by the eighth rib. The fatal stab in the neck must have been delivered with considerable force.

Evidence of the Mother.

—Ester Elizabeth Gray, wife of Robert Gray, of 19, Grosvenor-street, St. Peter's-street, a well-binder, said the deceased was her daughter, and was married to the prisoner in 1885 by way of the had five children. The prisoner, who was formerly a bricklayer, but since his marriage had kept lodgings, from some of which he had been turned out in consequence of their being carried on improperly. Before living in St. Peter's-street they lived for three weeks in a house in Parkfield-street. They were turned out of that house on the morning of January 28th at half-past one. They were at her house, and they left to go home to St. Peter's-street. The prisoner called upon her witness at nine o'clock that morning, and she went to her house in St. Peter's-street, and she found her daughter, who was lying bleeding on the pavement. The prisoner and his wife had constantly quarrelled, and had led a wretched life. She had frequently seen him assault her. Neal at the beginning of last October was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for cutting witness's head with a stick. He struck her because she interfered to protect her daughter from his violence. Witness knew a man named Harry Day, aged 40. Her husband knew him in the way of business, and she knew him as a friend. The prisoner, as long as she had known him, had been very deaf, but he could hear if any one shouted into his ear.—Cross-examined by the prisoner: Witness denied that she had ever taken her daughter from the prisoner and made her drunk. She did not believe that any improper relations had existed between the deceased and the man Day. The prisoner and his wife had lived in the same house with Day. When Neal was sent to prison her daughter went to live in the same house that there was nothing wrong between them.—The Prisoner: You know better. They brought me to poverty and beggary. It was not my place they turned me out of; you know that as well as I do.

Struggle in the Bed-room.

—Jannette Holloway, widow, living next door to the prisoner, said that on the morning of the 28th inst. she was in her bed-room. Soon after nine o'clock she heard noises in the bed-room adjoining hers next door. It seemed as if two persons were struggling. She heard a female voice scream "Murder" several times, and then cry, "Oh, Bill (Neal), don't kill me. I love you. I love you with all my heart." Witness a minute or two afterwards heard the woman cry "Help," and opening the window saw Mrs. Neal bleeding, in her night-dress, in the street, with two policemen and some other persons near her. She saw the stable 155 N. near the house, and she saw the prisoner, who she saw the deceased lying outside in her night-dress, bleeding from the neck. A doctor was fetched, and the woman was taken to the hospital. Before the doctor arrived, witness and another constable tried to stop the bleeding as well as they could. Witness did not think it prudent to remove the deceased until the doctor came. Dr. Harve, of Essex-road, when he came, was ten minutes attending to her before she was taken to the hospital. The wound bled very profusely. The doctor arrived ten minutes after the first saw her.—Police-constable Baker, 413 N., corroborated the evidence of the last witness. He was the officer who fetched the doctor. He called at two surgeries unsuccessfully before he saw Dr. Harve. The deceased, before the arrival of the doctor, was covered with the landlady's shawl and with the capes of witness and the other policeman. Mrs. Neal was about twenty minutes on the pavement before she was put into the cab which carried her to the hospital.—Mr. Harve, who said that when he was called to the deceased he had much difficulty in stopping the bleeding. He had to keep his finger on the wound all the way to the hospital.—Stephen Bartley, of Albert-terrace, Islington, said he saw the prisoner soon after the alleged murder was committed. Neal said, "I have had a row with my old woman. I hit her with a hammer." Soon afterwards the prisoner was taken into custody.—Benjamin Dawson, of Rivinghill-street, Clerkenwell, said that the prisoner, on the morning of the 28th inst., came to his house, and he saw her in the street. Neal said, "I will see my children, and then I will give my wife up." Witness had charge of one of the prisoner's children, and Neal kissed the child and said "Good bye."

The Green-eyed Monster.

—Edward Beesley, gunmaker, of Quin's Buildings, Essex-road, said he had charge of three of the prisoner's children. He knew the man Day slightly. The deceased also knew him. He had seen Neal, his wife, and Day together, and on one occasion he saw Mrs. Neal and Day walking together, without any one else, in the City-road. The prisoner had never complained to witness of any misconduct on his wife's part with Day, but he had threatened some man, whose name witness did not know, and had complained that his wife was intimate with him. The prisoner spoke threateningly of the man. Witness did not hear Neal threaten any man personally. On one occasion Neal said to witness, "I have not seen my wife to-day. God punish me, if I catch the pair I'll settle them."—Annie Marsh, charwoman, said she knew Day, who lived in Parkfield-street, and had occupied the top floor of the house where prisoner and his wife lived before they moved to St. Peter's-street. On one occasion she heard the prisoner accuse his wife of going to the Britannia Theatre with Day, which Mrs. Neal denied. She heard the prisoner once threaten to "put this knife (holding up a knife) right through her" whilst he was complaining of his wife and Day. Witness said to him, "Don't be so silly. I don't believe there is anything wrong between them."—Police-inspector Tyler, N Division, said that when he examined the pri-

soner's room after Neal was taken into custody, he found a hammer lying on the floor. It had blood on the handle, as if some one had caught hold of it. When charged at the police station the prisoner said, "I ain't guilty." On being shown the blood stains on the knife and the hammer he said nothing.—The prisoner, who said he had nothing to say, was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

AN ABSCONDING BANK CASHIER.

Large Defalcations.

The Oldham police, the other day, obtained a warrant for the apprehension of Joseph Henri Hulton, cashier of the Oldham branch of the Manchester and County Bank. Mr. Hulton suddenly left Oldham at noon on Saturday of last week, and as he did not reappear at the customary hour on Monday, an investigation of his accounts was begun, and the defalcations were found to amount to several thousand pounds. It is notified that the following notes had been stolen from the bank premises:—Three £100 notes, Nos. 1.W. 32,154, 32,155, 32,156, dated Manchester, January 12th, 1888; three £500 notes, Nos. X.I. 75,245, 75,246, 75,250, Manchester, 28th January, 1889. The chief constable desires inquiries to be made at banks and other likely places. Before leaving home on Saturday Mr. Hulton is said to have informed his wife that he was going to Southport for the week end. He is, however, believed to have gone from Oldham to Liverpool. A very minute description of him has been circulated. He is stated to be 30 years of age, about six feet in height, of slender build and dark complexion, with a slight stoop. Mr. Hulton had, it is said, for some time lost heavily in Stock Exchange transactions, and that the period covered by the defalcations is contemporaneous with the time at which these unfortunate speculations began. Last week the interest on corporation debenture stock fell due, and in anticipation of the presentation of warrants for payment about £20,000 had been paid into the bank to meet the demand. The amount was made up of new bank notes, and £1,500 of this, it is alleged, forms a portion of the sum stolen. Mr. Hulton was a prominent townsman, occupying a good social position, and was so generally respected that the revelations made occasioned great surprise. He had been in this branch of the Manchester and County Bank for a number of years, and had steadily risen, his diligent discharge of duty and general probity having long ago commended him to the favourable notice of the directors. He was including a building society, as a result of a consultation held between the bank and the officials of the bank, a reward of £100 is offered for his apprehension. General sympathy is felt for Mrs. Hulton, who is left with two young children, and for Hulton's brother, who is also an employe at the Oldham branch of the Manchester and County Bank.

FIGHTING ON THE WEDDING DAY.

A collier living at Wombwell was on Tuesday married, but not until the bride had displayed a certain amount of disapprobation. The man met the bride in his pit clothes, but she refused to marry him in that attire. Not long afterwards, however, the couple, while the worse for liquor, quarrelled, and blows resulted. The man received two black eyes, and the bride was so much injured that she was rendered insensible. Dr. Burman, of Wath, was sent for, and he found her in a critical condition.

MURDER AND INCENDIARISM IN MARYLEBONE.

At the Central Criminal Court, Sarah Hannah Calender, 49, was charged with the murder of Florence Ada Banton, and with maliciously setting fire to a dwelling-house. In opening the case Mr. Avery said the crimes of which Calender was accused could only be described as of a diabolical character, and the real question to decide was whether the woman was responsible for her acts.—The jury brought in a verdict of guilty, but found that the prisoner was of unsound mind. They added that they considered constables Oliver and Lee deserved the highest commendation for their courageous endeavours to save the life of the child.—Mr. Justice Day said he heartily endorsed their praise. The constables had not only done their duty but they had acted admirably. He then ordered the prisoner to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.

THE DEPTFORD CHILD MURDER.

At the Central Criminal Court, Eleanor Sarah Jacob, 24, was indicted for the wilful murder of her illegitimate child, 4 years of age, named Emily Louisa Jacobs. Mr. Gill, who prosecuted, said that, although there was no doubt that the prisoner had committed the act alleged against her, according to his instructions the prisoner was in such a state of mind at the time that she was not criminally responsible. She resided with her mother at Deptford, and occupied a bed-room with her child. On the morning of January 21st she appeared to have gone into her mother's bed-room, and was not seen again. "I have done it," she said, and the mother on going into her bed-room found the child dead, with its head battered to pieces by a poker. The prisoner had previously been an affectionate mother, and had been very kind to the child; but for several days before the murder her mind appeared to have been wandering, and shortly before she had been confined in a lunatic asylum.—The prisoner was acquitted on the ground of insanity, but was ordered to be detained in safe custody.

THE OFFICER AND THE ACTRESS.

Another "excellent young man" of Paris has "gone wrong" all on account of a star of the Boulevard stage, who shone too brilliantly on his horizon and turned his head. The victim is of good family, and was an officer in a crack corps when he met the histrionic heroine of his life drama, whom he lived with in Paris until he had to leave his regiment owing to debt. The actress returned to the provincial theatre of which she was an ornament and a prop, and the ex-militaire had to accept employment from a financial perspective, from whom he collected accounts in fashionable localities. While waiting to see people in their rooms he went so far as to abstract small pictures, statuettes, and medallions, all of which were duly forwarded to the "flame" at Bordeaux as souvenirs of her admirer far away in Paris. The unhappy young man was discovered the other day in a room in the Faubourg Saint Germain just as he was appropriating a watch of value and a medallion. In order to cover his retreat, this vain young man, a few days before Haynes, who was a metropolitan police-sergeant, in receipt of £30 a year pension, and insured, signed a will in Cooper's favour.—The jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane, and added a rider that death was accelerated by Cooper's act in bringing the razor, and they considered he should be severely censured.—Mr. Roumieu, coroner, said that had the verdict been found de se, he should have committed Cooper on a charge of murder, as an accessory before the fact.—The depositions will be sent to the Local Government Board.

A REMARKABLE CASE.

On January 27th last John Haynes, an inmate of Chertsey Workhouse, cut his throat, and at the adjourned inquest on Thursday evidence was given by Mr. Cooper, the relieving officer, who gave the order admitting the deceased to the house, that he, on January 23rd, brought him, at his request, a razor. Haynes then cut an infirmity patient. A few days before Haynes, who was a metropolitan police-sergeant, in receipt of £30 a year pension, and insured, signed a will in Cooper's favour.—The jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane, and added a rider that death was accelerated by Cooper's act in bringing the razor, and they considered he should be severely censured.—Mr. Roumieu, coroner, said that had the verdict been found de se, he should have committed Cooper on a charge of murder, as an accessory before the fact.—The depositions will be sent to the Local Government Board.

How do you like "Petrolite"? Improve the washing time. It glistens on all the day. From all who try its power. How splendid it does its work, &c. Mrs. Mary's Privileged Soap Powder, a sparkling cleanser, saves scrubbing and scrubbing. Sold everywhere in tins, 1lb. or Four Pats. in Case, 3d. Works, Ammanbury, N.W. (Lad.)

"IN THE SWIM."

BY A CITY SHARK.

With remarkable perversity the knowing ones chose to pronounce the North-Western and Great Western dividends "disappointing," and the shares had, consequently, a bit of a fall. But buyers soon came in, in spite of all the "bear" could do to keep them away, and prices rebounded quickly. This seems a mood to show that the public are no longer in a mood to be ruffled by the depressing criticisms of operators, who badly want to pick up good things dirt cheap. That is the whole secret, I believe, of the heaviness of English rails; their prosperity being assured for the current year, if not for longer, a clique of greedy speculators are trying to knock them down previous to playing the good Samaritan by lifting them up. The dividends in question, instead of being "disappointing," are quite as good as all but the ultra sanguine anticipated, bringing up the total yield for last year to 63 in the case of the Great Western, and to 71 on the North-Western. Both lines thus show large improvement compared with 1888, and as working expenses have not been manipulated in either instance, the shareholders may look for a further expansion of prosperity. It has to be remembered, too, in the case of the Great Western, that the Milford Haven route added next to nothing to the traffic during last half-year, whereas it will, for the future, bring much more to the line. Taking that important contingency into consideration, I regard Great Western shares as a bit cheaper and more promising than North-Western at current quotations, and both as much better money's worth than Brighton Deferred. Next to the two great heavy lines, my fancy lights on Metropolitan, an excellent opening for speculative investment. Great Eastern also have a coming look, a very influential party being almost prepared, it is said, to take them up to 85 at a rush. Of course, the prudent operator always discounts such glowing talk as this by knocking off 50 or more per cent. The same may be said of the American rails, but the back of this Great Eastern is something at the back of the mere sport of Wall-street, which tumbles them up or down, just as its humour may run. The dealings in them on this side of the Atlantic are extremely limited, the general disposition among Stock Exchange men being to leave them severely alone. If this wholesome sort of treatment be only maintained for a few months, Brother Jonathan may perceive the folly of killing the golden egg-producing goose. There is no fresh feature in the foreign department, where prices fluctuate in fractions from day to day without disturbing the equanimity of either "bulls" or "bears." Nitrates, on the contrary, are the medium for a good deal of heavy gambling, while South African gold shares begin to have a distinctly fishy look. If any reader is minded to have a throw in at the mining table, he had better eschew Africa and Australia, and go all in for India. Ooregon and Nundydrook are the most promising just at present. I would suggest to correspondents who send me suggestions for investments for their savings that they should always specify the lowest rate of interest with which they are satisfied. There is no use in making "perfect safety" a condition when stipulating for 5 or 6 per cent., as some do. The two factors are never met together nowadays; if "perfect safety" be the governing condition, Consols or English municipal bonds of the highest grade must be purchased. Nor is it any good to invite my judgment of the soundness of little local concerns which are never heard of on the Stock Exchange. People who invest in them must look after their own interests as well as they can; no outsider, however obliging, can give them the slightest help.

At a sale of horses at Moulton Eangeate, near Spalding, on the farm premises of Mr. A. H. Clarke, fifty-one horses realised a total of £26,200. The highest price, 400 guineas, was paid by Mr. Cator, of Norwich, for Mary, a bay filly and a prize winner.

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Perhaps the most remarkable success ever known in pharmacy and medicine is that of Fraser's Sulphur Tablets. The rapid increase of sale since the appearance of the first sample, and the fact that all who wrote for them have been phenomenal. On Monday, January 6th, 1890, 500 people (besides callers) wrote for samples, 684 on the Tuesday, and 541 on the Wednesday. In addition to these there were the orders for packets, so that during the week ending January 11th, we received about 3,700 letters and postcards, while the sale during the week and subsequent actually doubled over any other previously done. This success has been deserved. It has come about owing to the merit of Fraser's Sulphur Tablets themselves, and because of the liberal and trusting method of introducing them. Readers cannot help seeing "Fraser's Sulphur Tablets" must have merit, or we would never dare otherwise to rely on the samples securing customers for them. We send the samples free and pay the postage, so that it is simply impossible we can gain anything except by merit of the article. At the same time it is fair to say that the public have shown themselves possessed of judgment and fair play. They gave us a hearing and a fair test, and then they bought Fraser's Sulphur Tablets from their local dealers, because they were found to be as we stated, viz., alike purifying, curative, preventive, antiseptic, and palliative in all forms of blood and skin diseases, rheumatism, constipation, fevers, and contagious complaints generally, whilst cleansing the skin, promoting the general health, and ensuring a clear complexion by freeing it from blemish. We knew we had a good article to sell, pure, whole, unadorned, safe, and efficacious, and yet without one word of flattery to the public, inasmuch as we must have lost a large sum of money had our offer of a free trial failed on deaf or callous under-standings.

Fraser's Sulphur Tablets are put up in packets (price 1s. 6d. post free, 1s. 3d.). They are invaluable during a spell of inclement, changeable weather, and for all who are afflicted with skin diseases, such as we have had too much of late, and who are sold by most chemists and Medicine Vendors. Sole Proprietors: FRASER & CO., 25, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.

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THIS Company is formed to purchase and work the business successfully carried on for the past seven years by Count Ostrorog of 164, Regent-street, W., trading as "Watery," as a "photographic artist, and to extend the same by the addition of studios.
 Count Ostrorog is under agreement with the Company to act as Managing Director for the space, at least, of five years, Count Stas J. Ostrorog will also continue his assistance as

South Africa, having received the approval of the British South Africa Company. It is intended by that Company to publish on the return of the Special Commission, about four months hence, an edition of *Life*, containing a narrative of the results of the Commission's investigation, accompanied with the photographs taken by Captain Stan J. Outcroff.

The property purchased by the Company consists of—

1. The goodwill and established business of Walrus.
2. The negatives, plates, and other accessories of the business. It may be mentioned that the negatives alone (numbering over 35,000) are now insured for the sum of £10,000.

size one, and will be increased in value as new orders are received. These negative figures are of great value, owing to the fact that Count Cavour's numbers amongst his sitters members of nearly every Royal House in Europe, and the leading political, historic, literary and artistic circles of the world.

2. The Copyright of the publication known as "Our Celebrities." The Christmas Number of "Our Celebrities" contains authorized portraits and fac-simile auto-raphs of the following celebrities:—The Emperor of Austria, King of Italy, Emperor of Mexico, Emperor of Russia, King of Spain, King of Portugal, King of Greece, King of Denmark, King of Norway, King of Sweden, King of Prussia, King of Saxony, King of Bavaria, King of Sardinia, King of Belgium, King of Holland, King of the Netherlands, King of the Belgians, King of the Danes, King of the Norwegians, King of the Swedes, King of the Germans, King of the Saxons, King of the Bavarians, King of the Sardinians, King of the Belgians, King of the Dutch, King of the Flemings, King of the Walloons. Referring to this, the "Daily Telegraph" of 26th October last said—"The likenesses are examples of the best results that have yet been accomplished in photography."

4. & The Lease, for an unexpired period of eighteen years, of the premises, 164, Regent-street, London, for which a premium of £2,000 was paid three years ago.

		\$	s.	d.
1888	1st Jan to 31st December	==	563	1 8
1889	"	==	1,350	10 8
1890	"	==	2,276	16 8

1956	000	000	000	000	2,954	3 10
1957	000	000	000	000	7,509	0 10
1958	000	000	000	000	8,575	0 11
1959 (6 months ended June 30)	000	000	000	000	6,064	4 3

The expenses for the year ended December 31, 1959, amounted to \$5,931, ex. 6d., leaving a profit for that year of \$2,947 17s. 6d., exclusive of depreciation or allowance for bad debts.

After allowing for Count Ostrorog's remuneration as Managing Director, as set forth in the contract hereinafter referred to, Dividend and all expenses incidental to the purchase of shares, it will be seen that the net profit of 7 per cent. on the entire issued capital of the Company is virtually secured. The

The development of the business has been so great in the past, and the indications of future rapid progress are so favourable, that the Directors are confidently looking forward to steadily increasing dividends.

The price to be paid to the Vendor is £27,000, of which £12,000 must be in cash. The Vendor undertakes to accept the £15,000 in shares, and to assign to the Company the whole of his allotment of 12,000 shares, with regard to which he has entered into agreement with the Directors not to let them pass out of his possession for at least three years, and to retain at least 10,000 shares in the Company. The Vendor also undertakes to pay the book debts due to the Vendor will be taken at a valuation.

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PRESERVER OF FREEDOM, AND MAY BE CALLED
"THE PEOPLE." "—Ficor of Wakefield, chap. 11.

BLIND GUIDES.

On Wednesday last, after two months of fruitless, needless strife, and consequent suffering for a multitude of innocent women and children, the so-called strike of the South Metropolitan Gas Company's stokers came to

an end "formally and officially." As a matter of fact, the announcement of the close of this disastrous chapter in the history of the relations of capital and labour in this country was merely the open confession of the leaders of the strike that they had been beaten. Everybody

all over the country knew that—and, doubt-
less, nobody knew it better than the strikers

themselves—long ago. Only, for the sake of appearance, it was necessary, in the opinion of the leaders, to make a show of marching out of an untenable position with the honours of war. Therefore, the leaders of the movement appended certain so-called conditions to the complete surrender of the strikers. These conditions are—first, that the company shall revert to the eight hours' system of work which was in use before the strike began, except where there has been mutual agreement to the contrary; and, secondly, that in the event of vacancies arising the directors shall give their old employes the chance of a return to work in preference to strangers. As a matter of fact, these conditions were at once accepted by Mr. LIVESLY, for the simple reason that they are, in reality, not conditions at all. For, as to the first of them, the eight hours' system was only abandoned by the company as not being the best way of managing the new men, and, as Mr. LIVESLY says, it was the intention of the company to revert to it as soon as practicable. And as to the second "condition," that is no more than the company offered all along, recognising, as the directors did, that their men had been led astray by evil counsels, and desirous, as they were, to make the road of their return as smooth as possible without abandoning any principle of the controversy. Unfortunately, however, the unhappy consequences of the strike are not likely to be removed for many a long day in the case of most of the old workmen of the company. Although the directors are willing to take them back as vacancies may arise, the vacancies are likely to be very few in number. Not only do the lengthening days reduce the necessary manufacture of gas, but also the first claim upon the company is that of the new men already engaged, none of whom will be discharged provided they have been found capable and well conducted. The "conditions" of the strikers amount, therefore, to absolutely nothing more than the company has been willing to grant them all along. Can a more total and disastrous defeat be imagined? And who is to thank for this? Who, indeed, if not the blind guides who have led the luckless strikers into this trouble? We do not blame the individual men, for previous experience has proved that individuals could not, without danger of personal violence, refuse to obey the orders of the self-constituted chiefs who have just had to knuckle under to Mr. LIVESLY. The lesson has been severe; we can only hope that it will not have been given altogether in vain.

But the collapse of the South London gas strike is not the only check which the blind guides of labour have received during the past week. At Hay's Wharf the trade union leaders, having attempted to dictate to employers as to the workmen they are to employ, with a view to the exclusion of non-unionist men, have at last provoked a combination on the part of the employers. Let us say at once, fully and frankly, that, speaking in the interests of the men themselves, we hail the establishment of this combination of dock owners and wharfingers with the greatest possible satisfaction. We do so because we are convinced that the policy of the trade union leaders would, if generally successful, prove fatal to the commercial interests of the country, and hence to the interests of the working classes which are inextricably bound up with them. We would repeat yet once more that the interests of capital and of labour can never be divorced, and that any attempt to improve the position of the worker which cripples the resources of the capitalist, or renders his financial position insecure, is bound to result in the decline of trade and the decline of wages with it. What do the trade union leaders want to do? They want, as they openly avow, to provide work for every man in the country without diminishing wages. Supposing that they succeeded in doing this, what would happen? The answer is plain. The cost of production would be increased to such an enormous extent that English trade would be unable to compete with its foreign rivals. Even as things stand at present, it is not without difficulty that we maintain our commercial supremacy; indeed, we have not maintained it in every department of industry. If, then, the cost of production be raised to any considerable extent, we are bound to be distanced by our foreign rivals. But this increase in the cost of production is inevitable if Mr. JOHN BURNS and his followers succeed. Therefore, in the interests of the men themselves, we rejoice to see that employers and capitalists are meeting combination by combination, and that some restraint is likely to be put upon the tyranny with which the trade union leaders are striving to oppress both capital and labour alike. The crisis, however, is a grave one in the economic history of this country; and it is necessary that the friends of the working man should speak out, even at the risk of unpopularity, to warn him against the blind guides who, as in the case of the unlucky gas stokers, are luring him to destruction.

DOCKS AND DOCKERS:

It is very rarely that the report of a commercial company has such public importance as that which has just been presented to the shareholders of the London and St. Katharine Docks. Here we have proof, which no sophistical argumentation can weaken, that the dockers' strike dealt a very heavy blow to the shipping trade of London—such a blow that any continuance of the strife, in however modified a form, would inevitably compel many shipowners to seek some other port. Even as it is, London has suffered a very serious loss, which may not be recovered for some years. Comparing the second half of 1889 with the same period in 1888, there was a diminution

of shipping using our splendid port to the extent of more than 50,000 tons. The report attributes this shrinkage to many merchants having changed the destination of their cargoes, fearing that they would not be landed at the London docks. This was also done by some of the great steamship companies, which made use of Southampton as a stopgap. But it is much to be feared that a certain share of the lucrative business went to Antwerp and Rotterdam. Here is the chief source of danger; that England may, like Venice in former times, cease to be the centre of the world's commerce. It will be remembered that while the dockers' strike was going on, Mr. BURNS and his colleagues endeavoured to prevent London ships from loading and unloading at other English ports. Luckily, he failed; had he succeeded, their owners would have transferred the business to the continent, where it would have probably remained. The agitators seem to forget that the ocean-borne trade of this country covers the whole world. England has become a commercial depot for all nations, and London is the mainstay of the gigantic business. Not only does the foreigner come here to purchase goods brought to Europe in English vessels, but he himself employs British bottoms to convey his merchandise to distant places. But although he does this, he grudges the profit which accrues to England from being the general carrier, and he is using every effort to obtain a larger share. We can imagine, therefore, with what hilarity he noted the abandonment of London by so many shipowners during the late strike, and also how hopeful he must have been that Mr. BURNS would succeed in stopping shipping business at other English ports.

Another matter of vital moment to all connected with the docks is the prodigious increase of expense in handling cargoes, consequent upon the higher remuneration given to labour.

It is estimated that the difference amounts to £150,000 per annum, and although the dock companies can recoup themselves in some measure by raising their charges, there is no limit beyond which they dare not go in that direction. For it is a standing complaint among shipowners that London dock charges are exceptionally high—much higher than at almost other ports. If, therefore, the companies were to attempt to recover the whole of their loss by mulcting the shipping interest, they would assuredly lose many of their best customers. On the other hand, it cannot be expected that the shareholders in a property, which has cost nearly twenty millions sterling, will rest satisfied to work it for the public benefit alone, without any profit for themselves.

We would earnestly counsel the dock labourers, in their own interest, to seek by all means to reduce expenditure. They are now in receipt of quite adequate remuneration for such labour as theirs, and they will be wise to return a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. At present there are some of them who shirk this obligation, and the belief that the less work they do the more they will get, is a very prevalent notion. There will be for their unemployed class mates a most dishonest argument, and all the worse for being clothed with sham philanthropy.

Those who act on it practically steal from the employers in order to help others to steal in the same fashion. In all friendliness, we would urge the men to abjure such pernicious doctrines, and to honestly perform the work for which they are honestly paid.

Mr. Parnell's friends, in the press and elsewhere, have been crowing very loud indeed about his "victory" in the case of Parnell v. Walter. How far are they justified in doing so? How far is the compromise which Mr. Parnell has consented to make with the *Times* to be regarded as a victory at all? Our readers will recollect that Mr. Parnell claimed damages to the tune of £100,000, and now he has accepted a verdict for £5,000. To consent to take exactly one twentieth part of the sum which the injury to the plaintiff's reputation was originally estimated may or may not be a prudent course; but, in any case, it is a poor victory to boast of. The *Times* has paid the penalty of its publication of libellous matter without due examination into the source from which it came, but for the journals on the other side to shout and swagger as though the future of politics was likely to be changed by the admission of the *Times* that it made a blunder is rather too strong. But, then, Mr. Parnell's friends have sore need to keep their spirits just now.

There was a good deal of common sense in the remarks made the other day by the Bishop of Chester on the subject of temperance. Mr. Jayne, who is a moderate man, and therefore contrasts favourably with most advocates of the cause, professes to desire not the extermination but the regulation of the liquor traffic. The public-house being, as he truly says, "all events for the present, an almost ineradicable part of the national life," the question for practical reformers is whether the public house cannot be made to satisfy the social instincts of the people without demoralising and debasing them. The bishop holds, though he is looking rather far ahead, that the municipalities might take the matter in hand and regulate the furnishing of entertainment to the minds and bodies of the ratepayers. Whether the English people would ever relinquish much municipal interference with private trading enterprise may be doubted. But, all events, the bishop deserves thanks for lending the weight of his opinion to the view that it is useless to attempt to provide for entertainment of the bulk of the English people on strictly teetotal lines.

A TERRIBLE DEATH.

A dreadful railway accident has occurred in State of Illinois. Through the breakdown of a bridge an engine and some trucks fell into a river and two men were drowned, while the driver perished in the wreck of the engine, just able to keep his head above water. Life was sustained for a time by the constant application of stimulants, but he ultimately died from exposure.

INFANTICIDE AT GUILDFORD.

A verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown was returned at an inquest held on Thursday at Guildford, on the body of a newly-born female child, found on Tuesday on the River Wey. Death, it appeared, was due to strangulation caused by a pocket handkerchief tied tightly round the baby's neck. The coroner discovered a name on the handkerchief and the police will endeavour to work up a clue. The coroner considered it better not to divulge the name.

THE GREAT ROBBERY OF BONDS.
Sentences.

At the Central Criminal Court on Thursday, before Mr. Justice Day, Hatfield Thomas Turner, 63, described as a carpenter and tradesman, and William Clarke, 40, a surveyor and auctioneer, two well-dressed men, were charged with forging a bond of the Chilian Government for £1,000, and also with being concerned in the stealing and receiving a number of other bonds of American railways, which had been stolen from the bank of Barings Brothers. —The circumstances under which this charge was preferred against the prisoners have been given very fully recently in the Mansion House police reports. They were of a somewhat remarkable character. It appeared that in the month of October, 1888, a parcel containing a £1,000 Chilian bond, and 105 American railway bonds, the whole being of the same value, to the amount of £5,550, and addressed to the bank of Barings Brothers by one of their customers, and when the various securities in the bank were not found in the evening it was discovered that this parcel had disappeared in a most mysterious manner, and not the slightest evidence could be obtained as to the means by which the securities had been abstracted from the bank. Immediately after the loss had been discovered the numbers and descriptions of the various bonds and the numbers of the coupons were extensively advertised and circulated in handbills, and payment of the coupons was stopped. No tidings, however, of the bonds were obtained until the morning of October, 1889, when the prisoner Clarke applied to a Mr. Jones to procure him a loan upon the security of a Chilian bond for £1,000, and he represented that the bonds belonged to a gentleman named Turner, who lived at Plumstead, who was a man of substance, the proprietor of an hotel at Peterborough, and who had an account with the London and County Bank at Woolwich. Mr. Jones advised that the bond should be sold outright, and Clarke consented to this being done. Then, through the instrumentality of a respectable gentleman named Turner, who was known to the firm of Carden and Co., stockbrokers, the bond for £1,000 was sold at that firm, but it appeared that the actual number of the bond, which was 5,550, had been most dexterously altered by the last five being made into an eight. The bond was sold in due course, the fact of its having been stolen being concealed by the alteration of the figure, and this alteration constituted the charge of forgery which was made against the prisoners. It turned out that the prisoner Turner occupied a small room at Plumstead, for which he paid 4s. 6d. a week, and he had an account with the London and County Bank at Woolwich, and it appeared that the greater portion of the money that was the produce of the cheque issued for the bond had been sent to the bank of Turner, and he obtained small notes for a Bank of England note for £500 at that bank. As to Clarke, it appeared that he had negotiated several of the notes that had been obtained at the Bank of England by Turner, and it was part of the case for the prosecution that £50 was paid to him for his slight service in connection with the sale of the bonds. At a subsequent period Clarke endeavoured to negotiate the American railway bonds, his excuse being all along that he was merely acting as the agent of Turner, and that he knew nothing of the robbery or that there was anything unlawful in the transaction. When Turner was questioned by Messrs. Davies and Sergeant Tabor, of the City police, he admitted that the £1,000 bond had been negotiated for him, and that he had purchased it from a Dr. Daly, an American gentleman, who had been staying at the Langham Hotel, and paid him £200 for it in notes and gold; but he refused to state how he had paid the balance. Upon these facts the present charge was preferred against the prisoners, the case for the prosecution being that they had resorted to a number of ingenious devices to obtain payment of the stolen bond.—The defence of the prisoners was that the evidence had failed to establish that Turner had any knowledge of the bonds being forged, and with regard to Clarke he had merely acted as an innocent agent in the affair.—The judge told both prisoners guilty.—Turner was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude, and Clarke to eighteen months' hard labour.

ALLEGED ILLEGAL DISTRRAINT.

Charles Wallace, labourer, of Drury-lane, Alfred Parry, porter, of Waterloo-road; and Eliza Wrench, commission agent, of Upper Marlborough-street, were charged on a warrant at the Dalston Police Court on Thursday, with being concerned with others, not in custody, in forbidding lawfully, and injuriously entering the premises of Mr. George Moore, a solicitor, in managing the business of the late John Huxley.—The prosecutor stated that in March, 1887, he gave a bill of sale to a company. This bill of sale was renewed in October, 1887. After paying the whole of £100 capital, with the exception of £10, he, in April,

1888, refused to pay any more money, because he found that the bill of sale was void. There were subsequent proceedings between the company and the man, and on the 20th a man came to the house of "Chadwick, the agent of the company, to take possession, but he went away again. Following this witness went to the divisional court to obtain an injunction against the company, and the hearing was now pending. Last Monday night, at eleven o'clock, witness heard a noise outside the breakfast parlour door of his house. He saw three prisoners there, and asked them what they wanted. They said they wanted to come in, and he replied, "Certainly not; you shall not." On application to the divisional court for an injunction has not come off, but though the case is 12s cases before it, I am expecting it every day." Wrench replied, "If you don't let us in, we shall get in somehow." Witness said, "Surely you can come at a reasonable hour; you will be better off Chadwick to-morrow, or I will meet you there." Wrench replied with an oath, "You big handieapped me, and we shall get in somehow the other." Witness told the men that if they broke into his house he should apply for a warrant against them, and they went away. Half an hour later, however, he heard an almost simultaneous knocking at the principal front door and at the back door. He then bolted and locked all doors, and told the prisoners from a window what he had done and cautioned them. Witness had a large Newfoundland watch dog, who had been released from its chain and evidently tampered with, for it was lying quietly. The prisoners and about five other men were in the noise evidently endeavouring to force the back doors, at the same time using language. Subsequently, witness found that the prisoners had smashed the window, frame, sashes, and all, and had got into the kitchen. They were burning, and were burning some of the wood of the broken sashes. Witness sent for police protection. A police-sergeant cautioned Wrench that if he carried out his threat to go upstairs he should interfere. Witness also warned them not to go further, but he kept his temper and said he would make them answer for a criminal court. The men remained in possession. On Tuesday morning witness got an order from the divisional court, and they went out.—The prisoners now preferred to reserve questions until they were legal aid, and Mr. Haden Corser remanded them each on £20 bail.

TWO BRITISH SEAMEN DROWNED.

News has arrived from the Cape of a disaster at Simon's Town, by which two British sea-
men, Albin Treneaman and Charles McIlmain, of
gunboat Griper, lost their lives. They were
with two others in a 20ft. gig while a heavy
sea was on, and when two miles from shore the
gig was struck by a heavy sea and capsized. The
two British seamen seized the loose wooden articles that floated in
the boat, and for a time kept together, endeavor-
ing to make for the shore. But in the turbulent
sea they had a hard struggle, and when about
three-quarters of a mile from the beach they were pa-
ssed by the waves, and Treneaman and McIlmain
were seen alive no more. After the greatest difficulty
the other two reached the shore, much exhausted
and bruised and cut by the rocks.

THE CREWE MURDER.
Extraordinary Behaviour of the
Accused.
The Confessions.

The Confessions.

at the Crewe Police Court, Richard Davies told George Davies were charged with the murder of their father, Richard Davies, on the night of the 25th ult.—Inspector Oldham stated at early on the morning of the 28th ult. that a prisoner came and told him that his father had been stopped in Crewe-lane. The prisoner said he did not know if his father was hurt. Witness drove to the spot and saw the dead body of the deceased on the ground. The man was terribly cut, many wounds being inflicted, and there was blood all about him. He looked near it. On Tuesday night at midnight, the prisoners were arrested on the charge of committing the murder, and they have since been confined in separate cells. On Thursday last week both prisoners expressed a desire to make a statement, and after being cautioned, George wrote a confession, which he signed. George Davies said: On Saturday, the 25th of January, Dick got ready to go home first, and went the bus or my aut. When he got ready to go into the yard, I said to me, "George, I want you to get me a pair of pistol caps." About half an hour afterwards I went down to get the caps, and when I was looking up I saw Dick looking out of the window, waving his hand as if he wanted to come in. On looking round I saw Dick standing there, and he said, "Hand me out those caps?" and I said "No," and then he said, "Go and get them." I went and got them and came out of the shop and gave them to him. Then we both walked up Victoria-street and went to John-street, and stood against our traps. When we got there Dick said to me, "I tell you what. I think I shall have a go at our old man to-night." I said, "Please yourself." He said, "I meant to have a go at him on Monday night, but he picked some one else, so I'll wait till then, and then I will get the little chopper out of my bag," and I said, "I should not do it, because you would be missed," and he said, "No; they won't miss it." Richard said, "You will not hear from me again before I have hit him, and I shall go back to work and you must come running in about ten minutes after me, and run into the house and say some thing." I stopped my father up Crewe-lane. Then he came and called me, and we parted at the end of the lane. I thought no more about it, and did not think I would do it. About half-past ten me and father started on the shop, driving horse and trap. On the way we got to the way down Crewe-lane, Dick hit father with something, and father said, "Oh, dear, dear, what's that?" and then he said, "Way, way," and then Dick hit him across the face with the handle of the trap, and then father fell out of the back of the trap and lay on the seat as usual. Then the pony went on a gallop, and then I got out and went further down the lane, and did not know what to do. Then Dick came running down, and he said he thought some one was coming, so he went across the fields and ran home, and I went round by the lane and got home about ten minutes after Dick. I went round the house and said, "Father has got stuck in the trap," and then the patering horse came out of the house, and he was very much shocked, and told them that father had been stuck, and then he ran up Crewe-lane, where father was, and found him dead. I think I know all the rest.

The Second Confession.

The other brother's statement was as follows: The true statement of R. Davis. I hereby swear that I and my brother George made it kill either him on Saturday, January 25th. I left shop at about eight o'clock to go home; but instead of going home I was to wait in Crewel for father to come, and then I was to come to the hedge and seize the pony's head, and George, who was riding with him and was being the axe with him, would jump up and strike him two or three times. I ran behind and caught hold of him and pulled him out of the trap, then George got out of the trap, and went home and left him there to wait until he was dead, and then he was to come running, saying they had been stopped up Crewel by two men. I arrived home about eleven o'clock and in ten minutes or a quarter of an hour George came and told us. I ran and got to him first; he was on the opposite side to where I had him, and quite dead. I took his money out of his pocket, and then Jack, my elder brother, came. The cause we had for it was because he caught a bad father—not to me exactly, but George and the rest, and a bad mother; for they have been very nearly stung sometimes, for he would neither buy them for the fire or meat to eat when he was in temper; but, may be, we were committing the same crimes, and we were committing the same consequences of it, and I hope the law will mercifully with me and George. We don't serve it, I know, but let it be for the same mother and my little brothers. Spare one for them.

Contradictions:

Inspector Oldham, in further examination. These statements were read in the presence of both prisoners. Richard said, when he read George's statement, "Now, George, yours is true. The first part is, but the last is not but lies. I did not say that; and I expect George, to tell the truth. The last part is true. You had the axe, and you know it. I struck father first." George replied, "No, not. It's all true what I have written. I was up with the axe-head in one hand and the other in the other. I was there. What else do you want? You took the pistol with you, and I was with you. You did not finish him with the hammer, you would with the pistol. You struck him the side of the trap. I never struck father the axe at all. You took the axe into the trap. Richard, however, insisted that George had been with his father with the axe while in the trap. — Davies, the deceased's daughter, identified the handle produced as part of the chopper which was missing on the Sunday. It had been picked up with blood on it near the scene of the murder. Her father did not pay her brother the money, but sometimes gave him a few shillings, gave him 10s. at Christmas. They lived by knocking about as she knew. She lived longer at Crews, — John Davies, the eldest son, deceased, having given evidence as to finding the body of his father. Mr. Brooke intimated that he had a number of further witnesses.—The further hearing was then adjourned.

Resumed Examination

At the resumed examination, the surgeon made the post mortem examination describing ten wounds he found on Richard Davies's head and said they caused death.—Superintendent Leah narrated the circumstances of his interview with the prisoners prior to their arrest. The prisoners were again remanded to the county gaol for the next sitting. Among the witnesses who will be called are the county assessor, who will give evidence as to bloodstains on the clothing of the prisoners, an aunt of the mother of the youths, who is reported to be in a serious state of prostration, and the school publican to regard Richard's confession as being the work of the older prisoner, who was a school teacher and treasurer, reads with attention the religious books which are sent to him by the police. Much comment has been made on the effort of the younger brother to hasten a statement signed by the two witnesses, and Richard. The prisoners were remanded at an early hour on Thursday morning to Stafford Gaol, where they will remain during the interval of the remand.

Whistling In the Cells.

A Crews correspondent states that notwithstanding the desire of the younger prince George, to incriminate his brother as the murderer and screen himself, there is too much reason to believe from the circumstances and further evidence to be called, that he took part which his elder brother Richard decided his confession he did, and struck the first blow.

the hatchet. Richard, however, was armed with a revolver with five chambers loaded with slugs. Case George should be overpowered by his father. He also carried a pistol loaded up to the mouth with rough pieces of iron and lead. These two weapons are in the hands of the police. The prisoners are reported as maintaining absolute callousness. They do not appear to have been in the smallest degree affected by the police court disclosures. The prisoner, Richard, after the magisterial examination was adjourned. He wished to speak to his eldest brother, John, who had given evidence during the afternoon. John was standing in the corridor, and on being ushered into his brother's presence, Richard complained of feeling very lonely in his cell, and asked his brother to bring him a book to read to while away the time. The police, who were present at the interview, sharply declined to grant any such request. During the night, however, Richard whistled some lively airs.

**THE RIGHT TO EDUCATE CHILDREN
AT HOME.**

At the Meylebone Police Court, the wife of Ebenezer Beesley, a carpenter and joiner, of 26, Queen's-road, Haywards, again appeared before Mr. De Rutzen in answer to a summons for neglecting to send her son, Harry, aged 10, to school. The defendant has been a number of times before the court to answer summonses taken out by the London School Board.—Mr. Howard, the superintendent of the district, explained that the child in question had never attended school. Mrs. Beesley said a quarrel with, and had quarrelled with, a highly mechanic and her defence was that she devoted four or more hours a day to the education of her son Harry and her other children. Since the case was last before the court a committee had considered the case, and the boy had been examined by Mr. Peters, then head master of one of the board schools. He had given a certificate, which he (Mr. Howard) now handed to Mr. De Rutzen for his examination. At the request of the magistrate Mr. Peters entered the witness-box.—Mr. De Rutzen: With all your admirable methods in board schools, I suppose you find it difficult to get a boy of the age of 10 years who ought to be in what you call the fourth standard are not in it?—Mr. Peters: Only a very small number, indeed.—Mr. De Rutzen: I want to know the fact, we will go into the number presently. I suppose you don't think it extraordinary when, as I have said, a boy of this age ought to be in a certain standard, but is not?—Mr. Peters: There would be two or three out of a class of sixty or seventy who ought to pass into another standard and do not.—Mr. De Rutzen: That would of course be according to the capability of the child to learn. A certain proportion in every class would be backward. Mr. De Rutzen said that upon the answers given by Mr. Peters the case must fail. The boy in question might be backward, but the question was, was he receiving education at home, and on that point there could be no doubt, and the summons must be dismissed.—Mr. Howard said there were other and younger children in the family.—Mrs. Beesley was about to address the magistrate, but Mr. De Rutzen said he would rather not argue with her. She had given herself a great deal of trouble over this child, and he hoped she would not put herself to so much trouble in regard to the others in the family.

SEIZURE OF SPIRITS.

Edward Mills, 49, a beerhouse keeper, of Chester-street, Kennington-lane, was charged at the Lambeth Police Court on Thursday with having in his possession about two and a half gallons of spirits and harbouring the same, contrary to the Customs' Laws Consolidation Act 1876, section 168. The penalty was shown to be £100, or treble value. Mr. Sydney Lewislin, who defended, said his client would plead guilty, but the selling had not had been for several cases lately brought before the court against persons for conveying spirits without a permit, and heavy fines had been inflicted. The plea of the prisoner he was satisfied with, but must ask his worship to inflict a penalty of treble the value of the spirit seized. It appeared that in consequence of the recent cases brought before the court, Mr. Lewislin, in company with Mr. William Lewislin, the other officers, have been on the watch, and on Wednesday night, from something that came to their knowledge, they paid a visit to the defendant's premises, and there in a bedroom found two and a half gallons of spirits (brandy) in fifteen bottles.—Mr. Leweshlin, in answer to Mr. Hannay (the presiding magistrate), said the spirit was nine degrees over proof, and that of public-house spirit.—Mr. Hannay said he might have taken some objection to the force of complaint, but would not do so. He asked, however, that his worship would mitigate the penalty under exceptional circumstances.—Mr. Hannay asked what those circumstances were.—Mr. Sydney said, according to his instructions, prisoner had been in the habit of buying casks that had contained brandy, and that what had been found in his possession formed a portion of what had been kept in the cask. He traced for him. Mr. Hannay said Mr. Sydney might have been so instructed, but certainly he could not accept such an excuse to that. He ordered the prisoner to pay treble the value of the spirits seized, viz., 26 lbs., or in default one month.

IN AND OUT

MR. GLADSTONE IN OFFICE.
Declares Free Education premature and difficult.
Declares to revive a Socialist denigration.
Declares Welsh Disestablishment impossible.
Denounces obstruction in Parliament in every shape.
Insists that the majority in Parliament shall govern.
Keeps Parliament sitting for the full term.
Votes against the principle of "One man one vote."
Appoints and defends the Irish resident magistrates.
Employs 1,750 soldiers and police at evictions in one week.
Imprisons 1,300 Irishmen on suspicion without trial.
Suppresses Irish riots by soldiers and police.
Declares boycotting to be a prelude to murder.
Opposes Local Option, and admits publicans' right to sell liquor.
Employs informers for the detection of crime.
Denounces Mr. Parnell as a traitor and a robber.
Imprisons Mr. Parnell without trial, on suspicion of treason.
Denounces Ireland has no cause of complaint against England.
Declares that Parliament has done more for Ireland than America or Scotland.
Beseeches the support of all loyal men against Home Rulers.
Proclaims 900 Land League members in Ireland.
Thanks the Conservatives for their support of law and order.
Proclaims and suppresses the Land League, because "crime dogged its steps."
Denounces the "No Rent" strike.

MR. GLADSTONE OUT OF OFFICE.
Considers Free Education to be right and proper.
Opposes the "777" Bill for the Socialists.
Ponders Welsh Disestablishment imperative at right.
Declares to accept or ignores obstruction by his followers.
Denies the right of the majority in Parliament to govern.
Insists on repeal of the Septennial Act.
Declares himself strongly in favour of "One man one vote."
Abuses and innuendoes the Irish resident magistrates.
Denounces the employment of military and police evictions.
Abuses the Government for imprisoning offenders at fair trial.
Declares the Government for doing the same thing.
Describes boycotting "exclusive dealing."
Votes for Local Option as denying any right to compensation.
Pronounces informers as sitting to crime.
Entertains Mr. Parnell a petriole of sympathetic moderation.
Denounces Mr. O'Brien's trial and imprisonment.
Declares Ireland has record of 700 years of English oppression.
Asserts that Parliament has done nothing for Ireland.
Denounces as tyrannical to truncate the opponents' Home Rule.
Declares it is improper to promote a meeting in Ireland.
Denounces them for trying to preserve law and order.
Regards its successor, National League, as a "pious institution."
Justifies the equally immoral

A dense fog overhung Liverpool on Thursday and opaque darkness prevailed on the river. The steamer Bengar, from Garston, outward bound, ran ashore at Dingle Point, and three American liners were detained, the tugs being unable to leave the landing-stage.

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from No. 7 to No. 10 Company, and will assume command from the 4th inst. Private H. C. Moore is transferred from No. 7 to

from No. 7 to No. 10 Company, and will assume command from the 4th inst. Private H. C. Moore is transferred from No. 7 to

RS. he would be forgiven, and might return home where after a time he would be married

RS. where after a time he would be married
p.m. : young girl of respectable family. The ser

About half a dozen lads were seen by the police stealing oranges from a van as it was passing along Commercial-road, and Henry Kelley, George Gardener, two boys of 13 and 9, were charged at the Thames Court on Thursday. Detective Payne said there was no one in the van except the driver, and the oranges were not properly covered, about a hundred of which were being stolen. "And no wonder," said Kennedy. "It is leading little boys into temptation." He remanded the lads.

TO THE DEAF.

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A TRIPLE TRAGEDY.

having been informed that the oc

AN OLD WOMAN MURDERED.

o'clock in the morning some poli

At Queenstown Petty Sessions on Thursday morning, a passenger, named Ellen Collins, landed the previous night from the C. S. steamer Scythia, from Boston, was charged, attempting to smuggle 4 lb. of tea and 1 lb. of tobacco, and fined £1 7s. 6d., being single and duty. The trunk in which the goods found was also forfeited.

Francis Dunn, 34, plumber, of 20, Francis-street,

SUICIDE OF A FRENCH MILLIONAIRE.

named M. Pierre Ramonding, who has spent

THE ACTION AGAINST MR. WINANS

the case of *Miller v. Winans* came on for hearing.

A FARMER'S ECCENTRICITY.

a Leanington County Sessions on Wednesday, with

THE AFFAIRS OF MR. BENZON.

the substance of other charges preferred against the defendant, and the time

The church leaders' committee of the Staff
Lent State Bank in Hamilton, N.Y.

the constant γ is given by

Several Lives Lost

ROBBERY AND SUICIDE.

had a fainting fit, and on recovering stated that
 no money had been stolen from him. His arms

TERRIBLE SCENE ON THE SCAFFOLD.

under dramatic circumstances. He acted as valet

A BISHOP ON THE PUBLIC-HOUSE OF THE FUTURE.

meeting at the Chester Town Hall, held in connection with the Church of England Temperance

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and Youth, Motion for Work, and generally, but

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COLD 41 44 YWME 44

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

Heart disease caused the death of 167 persons in Kensington last year.

It is seventy-one years since the first fair was held on the Thames.

The wife of a labourer named Trig, employed at Dover, has given birth to three male children.

The population of Kensington was estimated at 178,000 in the middle of the year—72,000 males and 106,000 females.

Stoke Newington Vestry has decided in favour of a free library, and the ratepayers are to be asked to ratify the decision.

In the House of Lords, Lord de Ramsey will move and the Earl of Strathmore will second the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

Mr. Parnell was introduced to Mr. Barnum in the Law Courts the other day. The two had a long and apparently agreeable chat.

Mrs. Perry Herriell and Mr. Thomas Ingram have contributed £1,000 each towards the proposed fund of £15,000 now being raised by the Bishop of Peterborough for erecting new churches at Leicester.

Lydia Bacon, of Sudbury, Mass., who has just died in her 103rd year, attributed her longevity to hard work, plenty of exercise, plain living, and reading enough to keep the mind in pace with the body's vigour.

Arthur Robbins, the defaulting cashier of the Cardiff Building Society, has been committed for trial at the assizes on charges of stealing and falsifying the books. The total defalcations are £8,200, and there is a further sum of £410 not traced.

A young man, named Green, was at the Guildhall Police Court, charged with discharging firearms at a public-house in Newgate-street. Miss Kate Simpson, the barmaid at the house, preferred a charge of threatening against him, stating that she was in fear of her life. The prisoner was remanded.

As Lord Hartington, owing to ill-health, cannot this year give the usual Parliamentary dinner to his followers, the Earl of Derby has issued invitations to the chief supporters of the Liberal-Unionist party for a full-dress dinner, to be held on Monday evening at his residence in St. James's-square.

The sensation amongst the frivolous of New York just now is a great ball to be given by a lady which is to cost \$50,000, or over £10,000, an unprecedented sum to be spent on such an entertainment in the States. The lady's sole extravagance until now has been diamonds. She is said to possess a tiara that is worth \$40,000.

Michael Schiebler, a murderer, who was being taken from Minneapolis to New York, to be handed over to the German consul there, jumped from a swiftly moving train at Corfu, and escaped to the woods. At night he was captured at a farmhouse, where he was warning himself by the fire. He was uninjured by his leap.

From a return issued by the Board of Trade, it appears that during the year ended the 30th June last 228 lives were saved by means of the life-saving apparatus around our coasts. The lifeboat and the rocket apparatus form the principal means adopted for saving life. With few exceptions the lifeboats are the property and under the management of the National Lifeboat Institution.

William Peters, a fireman, was at the Marlborough-street Police Court charged with assaulting Thomas Warwick by striking him on the head at Her Majesty's Theatre, during the recent riotous proceedings. The prisoner, who said he had only done his best to protect the property of his employers, was discharged, the magistrate observing that a gang of men breaking into a theatre must expect to get broken heads.

The receipts on account of revenue from the 1st of April, 1889, when there was a balance of £5,392,002, to February 1st, 1890, were £71,065,538, against £70,455,960 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £7,647,072. The net expenditure was £71,143,280, against £70,304,408 to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on February 1st, 1890, amounted to £3,222,994, and at the same date in 1889 to £3,353,425.

Mr. Barnum was the defendant in an action tried a few days ago by the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury. It was brought by Mr. F. Trotman to recover £250 advanced to Mr. J. R. Davis, who some years ago was in this country in charge of a "sacred" elephant from Burmah, belonging to Mr. Barnum. Davis had since died, and the question at issue was whether this was a loan to him personally or as the agent of Mr. Barnum. Conflicting evidence was given on this point, and eventually a verdict was given for defendant.

A woman stood charged with having poisoned her husband in one of the sessions trials in the north-west provinces of India. The case was already proved against the accused. Curious enough, however, one of those rare persons, the assessors, was for acquitting, or, at any rate, did not see his way to finding the woman guilty. His difficulty was that he could find no motive, it having been shown that her mother-in-law did not live with her! One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

The friends of free libraries will find plenty of encouragement in the report of the Clerkenwell Library, just issued, more especially as regards the lending department, which was steadily growing all last year, till it reached a total of 3,374 borrowers, or considerably more than one-fourth of the number of volumes in the library. A more satisfactory token still is the high quality of the books in request. As usual, fiction predominates, but the most popular authors are all of an approved class.

Mr. Justice Mathew has given judgment in a case involving an important point concerning retirement from the Army. Colonel Mitchell complained that his retiring allowance was less than he was entitled to under certain royal warrants; but on the part of the Crown it was submitted that he had been dealt with on the same principle as other officers, and that the decision of the Secretary of State was final. His lordship held that the applicant had no remedy by action or petition of right, and gave judgment for the Crown.

Lord Clifton was to have attended on Monday at Canterbury for public examination in connection with bankruptcy proceedings, but he did not appear, and a warrant for his arrest was applied for. Mr. Doveton Smyth, for his lordship, said the reason for his non-attendance was because he considered the court had no jurisdiction. Judge Selfe stated that he should make an order for the arrest of Lord Clifton, but the examination would be adjourned till the 4th of March.

A singular point under the licensing law has been decided in the Queen's Bench Division. The applicant, named Fairclough, held a license to sell beer in casks, or in bottles, but not less than two dozen reputed quarts at one time. For having sold the latter quantity in pint and half-pint bottles, he was convicted by local justices; but Mr. Baron Pollock and Mr. Justice Hawkins held that the conviction could not be sustained, as it did not matter in what size bottles the beer was sold so long as the total quantity was not less than that authorized.

A curious case arising out of the influenza has just been tried at Algers. The manager of the theatre closed the doors when the epidemic was at its height, though but few members of his company were attacked. They therefore sued him for full wages, and he pleaded in defence that he was not bound to keep his theatre open in times of epidemic, as a clause to that effect was contained in the agreements which the different plaintiffs had signed. It was true that the plaintiffs had not inspected any of them, but it was held that they could only have played to empty

benches. Judgment was accordingly given for the manager.

How frankly the girl of 16 admits that she is an old maid.

An athletic club for ladies has been opened in New York.

Infected milk has been the cause of seventeen cases of enteric fever at Kelvin-side, Glasgow.

Mr. Bonny, of the Emin Relief Expedition, has left Naples for London.

The continuance of the strike in the Irish bacon trade is proving a heavy pecuniary loss to farmers and traders.

The Senate of North Dakota, one of the lately constituted States, has adopted a bill giving legal incorporation to lotteries for taxation purposes.

There were shot in the single district of Travnik, in Bosnia, during the past year, 88 bears, 115 wolves, and 45 wolf-cubs.

Sir J. Ferguson, speaking at Darwin, said a measure would be adopted in the ensuing session of Parliament for limiting the hours of labour of women in the factories of India.

The remains of the late Mr. Justice Manisty were interred in Kensal Green Cemetery. The judges sent their private carriages to follow the funeral cortege.

The Duke de Montpensier, fifth son of King Louis Philippe, and father of the late Queen Mercedes of Spain, has died suddenly at his residence near Seville.

Sir Vincent Kennett Barrington and Professor Stuart were elected aldermen at the weekly meeting of the London County Council. By a majority of one, Mr. W. B. Crisp was appointed assistant-engineer.

At West Ham Police Court, James Knight, alias King, 29, a labourer, of 208, Victoria Dock-road, was sent to goal for two months' hard labour, for being concerned in assaulting Thomas Hussey, and with stealing 4d. from him during the fog on Monday night in the Victoria Dock-road.

The Council of the Associated Chambers of Agriculture has resolved to call the attention of the several chambers to the advantages which might be taken of the Technical Instruction Act to promote education in both practical and scientific agriculture.

Lord Rosebery has, in a letter to a correspondent, stated that in his opinion a peer ought to be given the choice of whether he wishes to enter the House of Lords or not, and that if he has not had that choice originally, he should have the option of whether he wishes to remain there or not.

At a meeting of the Leasehold Enfranchisement Association a resolution was passed endorsing the action of the executive in making a clause in the bill for next session providing that compensation shall be awarded to the tenants whose improvements have increased the letting value of the holdings.

George J. Davis and Coleman Self again surrendered at the Central Criminal Court to answer the charge of having obtained £650 by fraud and false pretences from Bell's Asbestos Company. The jury found in each case a verdict of not guilty.

At the London County Sessions, William Watson, a jeweller, and Samuel Beavis, a general dealer, were indicted for stealing a large number of furs and skins worth nearly £400. They were found guilty, and Watson, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to sixteen months' hard labour and Beavis to seven months.

The Croydon Town Council have unanimously approved of the bill for the purpose of acquiring property to widen the High-street and abolish the Midland railway station at Croydon. An agreement has been made with the Brighton Railway Company for the purchase, by the corporation, of the Central Railway Station site for £12,000 for the purposes of a new town hall.

Lord Wolseley, presiding at Aldershot at a lecture on modern military rifles, delivered by Colonel Slade, made some remarks on the magazine rifle and the new system of drill. He urged the necessity of our Army, on account of its smallness, being made perfect, and said that all the efforts of the War Office had been directed to the attainment of that end.

Lord Salisbury, presiding at a letter to the chairman of the Conservative Association for Manchester, congratulating him and the party generally on having adopted the wise and generous policy of resolving to support Professor Hopkinson, the Liberal Unionist candidate for the division of the city now represented by Mr. Jacob Bright.

The body of Bridget Morrison, aged 19, has been found in the Grand Surrey Canal at Peckham. The girl was employed at a laundry, and on January 7th last she left her home to go to work, and never returned. It is stated that the girl was happy and comfortable, and anticipating marriage, and no reason is known why she should commit suicide.

A Cossack officer started in November on a ride on horseback from Bielovetshenok, on the River Amur, to St. Petersburg, a distance of 5,000 versts, or 5,300 English miles. He has just accomplished over 2,000 versts, and is in good health and spirits. He is generally rides about seventy-five versts a day, and is armed from head to foot for protection against robbers. Captain Pyetvotz belongs to the Siberian Cossacks, a very hardy race.

At Highgate Police Court, William Price, solicitor of Conway-road, Cardiff, was summoned for deserting his wife. The complainant, a lady-like person, deposed that on December 18th the defendant went out, saying he was going to fetch the children home from school, and she saw nothing more of him. The bench made an order for the defendant to allow his wife £2 a week, and to pay the costs of the proceedings.

A quintuple wedding took place a week or two ago at a little church in Davies county, Kentucky. All the parties were friends, two of them being sisters. They had intended getting married on dates near together, and the priest hearing this, suggested that they should all be united at the one time. The five brides, all dressed alike, went in one carriage, and the five grooms in another.

Charles Hilton was, at the London County Sessions, indicted for being concerned in a night raid for the purpose of housebreaking and larceny. He pleaded guilty, and it was proved that he had been previously sentenced on various occasions to terms of imprisonment and penal servitude. He was now ordered to finish an unexpired term of two years and a half, and then suffer an additional period of eight years' penal servitude.

An action against Samson, the "strong man," has been tried in the Westminster County Court. The plaintiff, Mr. T. A. King, claimed £50 as salary and commission, and a further sum as commission on printing. Samson denied that the plaintiff was ever his business manager, and said he had paid him for all the services he rendered him. Judge Bayley took this view of the case, and entered a verdict for the defendant upon each claim.

The Registrar-General reports a marked decrease in the fatal cases of influenza in London last week only seventy-five deaths were primarily attributed to this disease, as against 127 and 105 in the two preceding weeks. The deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs numbered 550, or 80 less than the average. The death rate per thousand in London last week only 21.8, as compared with 22.4, 22.1, and 22.3 in the three preceding weeks.

At the Lambeth Police Court, James Clark, described as a traveller, and James Prior, a labourer, were charged, at the instance of the Infant Revenue Office, with having in their possession two-and-a-half gallons of overproof spirit, without a licence. The bench found the spirit was at least fifty over-proof, and that the prisoners

carrying on this illicit trade. One of the prisoners was fined fifty and the other fifteen pounds. French, Greek, and Latin are taught in Milwaukee by the phonograph.

Mr. Irving celebrated his 82nd birthday on Thursday.

Lead poisoning has recently caused the death of a London white lead worker.

Mr. H. H. Asquith and Mr. J. L. Walton have been raised to the rank of Q.C.

All those who pass through the door to success will find it labelled "push."

There were ten cases of suicide in London last week, three of murder or manslaughter, and forty-nine fatal accidents.

There were 2,699 births in London last week, 283 below the average in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years.

A band of 800 Red Indians in Manitoba are being rapidly wiped out by "la grippe," as they have no proper medical assistance.

The wife of a farmer named McNeal, of Cannon Lake, Minn., has shot and poisoned her four children and committed suicide.

Colonel Sanderson, M.P., intends in the autumn to visit America, Canada, and Australia, on a Unionist lecturing tour.

The strike of the Vienna chimney-sweepers lasted only one day, the masters having acceded to the demands for higher wages.

The government of Wyoming Territory propose to tax all bachelors over 30, and to promote female immigration by every possible means.

At a recent execution in Alabama, the trap was let down before all was ready. The executioner fell with the convict and was seriously injured.

Fifty telegraph wires are being laid across the North Bridge, twenty for railway purposes and thirty for the use of the General Post Office.

In the world there are about 1,334,070 miles of telegraph wires and cables, the total cost of which exceeded £9,000,000.

The metropolitan death rate has assumed its normal height. It is 21.8 last week. There were 1,849 deaths—211 below the average number in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years.

There are about 300,000 telephones in the United States, and more than 170,000 miles of telephone wires in operation, over which 1,055,000 messages are sent daily.

Marie Parsons, a Washington girl, 10 years of age, has been presented with a silver medal by the Government for having rescued a man and woman from drowning.

The Solicitor-General has been specially retained by Captain O'Shea in his forthcoming action in the Divorce Court against his wife and Mr. C. S. Parnell.

A mulatto in Cincinnati, after feeling a little unwell for a few hours, was seized with a fit of violent sneezing, which continued for five minutes, when he died.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich recently had the grip. He compares the sensation to that of "a midget skull that is too tight across the forehead and that pinches behind the ears."

Sierra city, California, has been smothered by avalanches. The county bridge over the river is wrecked, the roads are blocked with many feet of snow and ice, and all the wires are down. Several lives were lost.

News from China reports a terrible catastrophe which has occurred near Nankin. A waterspout caused a sudden rise of the waters of the Yangtze-Kiang, with the result that a village was submerged and 100 persons drowned.

Mr. Gladstone's title gets strangely travestied by the French papers, and a clothier in the Chaussee d'Antin, who has named an overcoat after him, puts up in large capitals, "Old Great Man Le Gladstone."

A mining camp at the foot of Lyon Mountain, Montana, has been completely buried by a snowslide. Two residents escaped, and the damage to property, which falls heavily and principally upon poor people, is very great.

It is reported from the steamer La Plata, which touched at Antwerp, on her voyage from Buenos Aires to Hamburg, that Cedulas to the value of 192,000fr., in addition to other securities to the value of \$128,000, have been stolen.

John Wesley Elkins, of Des Moines, Iowa, a lad of 14, murdered both his father and mother. He gave as his motive that he had desired to leave home and shift for himself, but his parents had objected.

A witness at the railway rates inquiry declared that the cotton industry gives employment to ten times as many people as all the railways, the latter requiring 300,000 hands, whereas the cotton industry employs 3,000,000.

At a meeting of the Hampshire County Council a report was submitted which showed that influenza had been seriously felt at the county asylum. There had been 192 cases—85 males, 75 female patients, and 34 employees; and, unfortunately, one nurse and a patient had died therefrom.

The vestries and district boards of the metropolis have just received a circular letter from the Local Government Board forwarding draft copies of a bill which has been prepared for the purpose of consolidating the law with reference to the public health, and asking for observations and suggestions.

The remains of Sir William Gull were interred the other afternoon in the churchyard of Thorpe-Soken, near Colchester. A large number of medical men and other personal friends of the deceased went down by special train, and the Prince of Wales was represented by Sir C. Trevelyan.

Lady Mostyn has presented a silver medal of the second class, to Benjamin Evans, coramandant of the third class to the crew of the Bat of Arry lifeboat, awarded by the Norwegian Government for rescuing the crew, numbering twenty, of the Norwegian ship Mount Pleasant, which broke away from a tug and drifted on to the West Hoyle Bank, at the entrance to the river Dee on the 7th of October last.

It may be as well to remind our readers that they should take the opportunity now of weeding out all the light gold—sovereigns and half-sovereigns—they can find, with any effigy on it except that of Queen Victoria's, and hand it to the bankers, to be sent to the Mint and re-coined. The time during which the Government will accept such light coin practically without question of weight expires on the 13th inst.

The meet of Mr. Richard Burke's foxhounds at Bathpork was interrupted by the intrusion of a large number of farmers and labourers, who protested against the presence of a land agent from Carrick-on-Suir. The gentlemen objected to be disturbed, and the hounds were followed by the crowd, who threw stones at the dogs and threatened the hunters. Later in the day it was found that several of the dogs were suffering from poison.

Robert Williamson, aged 23, living with his aunt in Clarkson's Yard, Quarry Hill, ran into Mill-garth-street Police Station, at Leeds, with nothing on but his shirt, and said he had murdered his cousin, Margaret Moravan, who lived in the same house. On inquiry the police found that Williamson had suddenly rushed into his cousin's bedroom and cut her throat with a large table-knife. She was taken to the infirmary in a critical condition. Williamson is in custody.

An inquest held at Grenoside, near Sheffield, a verdict of manslaughter was returned against George Hewitt, horse dealer, for having, as alleged, caused the death of Mr. Joseph Swift, landowner of the Red Lion Inn, Grenoside. Swift was at the Newmarket Hotel, in Sheffield, when a disturbance broke out, and he was struck and struck the landowner on the head with a stone, and on Swift telling him that it was not fair, Hewitt

down and viciously bit his thumb. He died on Sunday last.

The Duke and Duchess of Fife have taken up their residence at 15, Portman-square.

Mary Mackay has been killed by falling from a window while cleaning it at Arr.

There is still no diminution in the "overlying" mortality. Fourteen infants under a year old were last week suffocated in London.

One of the few remaining survivors of the "Six Hundred," Colonel Musenden, half-pay, late 8th Hussars, is to be promoted to general.

The tide of German emigration is diminishing in volume. Last year the emigrants only numbered 90,239, the smallest number since 1881.

Neither in London nor in any of the other twenty-seven great towns of England and Wales was there last week any death from small-pox.

Lord Willoughby de Broke has fractured his collar-bone while hunting with the Warwickshire Hounds at Mitford Bridge.

The Merchant Taylors' Company have given a donation of £211 to the Irish Distressed Ladies' Fund.

The Prince of Wales will hold a levee at St. James's Palace, on behalf of the Queen, on Friday, the 21st inst., at two o'clock.

There were 11 deaths in London last week from measles, 14 from scarlet fever, 24 from diphtheria, 67 from whooping-cough, 9 from enteric fever, and 9 from diarrhoea and dysentery.

The wife of Thomas Davies, collier, Treboeth, has just been safely delivered of triplets, a boy and two girls, and all are doing well. The woman has twice previously given birth to twins.

Mrs. Langtry left her bed on Wednesday for the first time since she was taken ill. Dr. Collins, in his latest bulletin, states that she is making satisfactory progress.

On Tuesday 1,000 hands employed in the Fairfield shipbuilding yard, Glasgow, were thrown idle through the rivet boys striking. They do not ask for higher wages, but wish a holder-on to be dismissed who withheld a boy's wages.

The Duke of Westminster has consented to open the headquarters of the 2nd Middlesex Cavalry Artillery Volunteers in Leonard-street, Finsbury, on the 22nd inst., on which occasion the regimental prizes will be presented by the Duchess of Westminster.

The late Mr. Justice Manisty has left his clerk, Mr. W. Bundoock, a legacy of £2,500, "in recognition of his long and faithful services." By his will the late judge had also provided for his second clerk, Mr. Barnes, who, however, predeceased him.

The annual report of the Crystal Palace Company, which has just been issued, shows that the gross receipts last year amounted to £118,380 19s. 1d., and the gross expenditure to £118,807 19s. 8d., leaving a balance of £41,078 19s. 4d. to be carried to the net revenue account.

The Queen has telegraphed a message of sympathy to Mr. Tracy, the American Minister of the Navy. The remains of his wife and daughter were interred in a cemetery near Washington, after a religious service had been held in the White House.

The Duchess of Albany has signified to the hon. secretary of the No. 6 District Metropolitan Police of the St. John Ambulance Association her willingness to accept the presidency of that centre, which embraces Hammermith, Chiswick, Fulham, Shepherd's Bush, and a part of Kensington.

At a meeting of the council of the Royal Agricultural Society, it was reported by the Finance Committee that the general result of the working of the society during the past year had been so satisfactory that they had been able to place £5,000 to the credit of the Windsor Show account, and to carry forward a credit balance of £2,013 on the general account.

The German Emperor, in his quality as an honorary British admiral, has invited an English squadron to pay a visit to Kiel at the time of the general manoeuvres of the German Navy, which take place at that port, under his Majesty's command, in the course of the summer. The fleet will attack and endeavour to effect a landing in the province of Schleswig-Holstein, which will be defended by the German Army.

After the dinner which Prince Bismarck gave to the Emperor William the other night, the Chancellor announced his intention to transfer the duties of President of the Prussian Ministry to other shoulders. The Emperor expressed regret that Germany had not England's countless millions to devote to colonisation purposes, and, above all, he wished the empire possessed a great fleet.

The steam third-class cruiser Barracouta, whose first steam trial proved unsatisfactory on account of her steering gear proving defective, left Sheerness Harbour on Thursday to resume her trials. The vessel was put on her eight hours' run, however, her cylinder covers commenced to leak, and she was compelled to put back to Sheerness for the defects to be made good. The Barracouta was built at Sheerness Dockyard.

Three months ago E. S. Routh was appointed the guardian of his mother, who had in July last married George Fry, for the purpose of a suit for nullity of that marriage being instituted, on the ground that the woman was of unsound mind when it was solemnised. This being disputed, Mr. Justice Butt rescinded the order, and his decision has been affirmed by Lords Justices Cotton, Lindley, and Lopes.

Thomas and Sarah Gavin were charged at Warrington with exposing their child, aged 6, in such manner as to cause injury to its health. The child had been starved and shockingly neglected. It only weighed 41lb., instead of about 60lb. On the child's body were numerous sores, caused by lying on a hard settle. The father was fined 2s. and costs, and the mother was sent to prison for two months.

Mr. Bridge, the magistrate at Bow-street, having decided that the assizes proceeding in the manufacture of a trace refuse, and that the vestry were bound to remove them, the vestry appealed from the refusal of the magistrate to state a case for the opinion of the High Court, Lord Justice Fry and Mr. Justice Mathew held that the magistrate's opinion was not conclusive, as a question of law, as well as one of fact, was involved. A rule absolute to the magistrate was therefore granted.

A deputation from the leading agricultural societies has waited on Mr. Chaplin to urge the Government to undertake the stamping out of pleuro-pneumonia, and the payment of compensation for slaughtered cattle from the Imperial exchequer. Mr. Chaplin said his sympathies were with the deputation, and he had laid the matter before his colleagues. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, he added, was disposed to be friendly and liberal towards agriculturists.

Mr. Gladstone delivered a lecture on Wednesday to the members of the Oxford Union Debating Society upon the points of contact between Assyrian discovery and the text of Homer. In replying to a vote of thanks the right hon. gentleman said he should labour in vain to convey to his hearers what that visit to Oxford, which he must regard as his last, had been to him. He was unable to acknowledge adequately the great kindness he had experienced from every quarter during his brief residence in the University.

The question whether an unqualified assistant to a qualified chemist was liable to penalties for selling poisons has been argued in the Queen's Bench Division. A penalty had been imposed by the Wandsworth County Court judge upon the assistant of a local chemist for selling a "verruca" remedy to a girl who committed suicide, and it was contended on behalf of the appellant that the seller contemplated by the Pharmacy Act was the unqualified owner of a shop. Mr. Baron Pollock and Mr. Justice Hawkins reserved their judgment, the former remarking, however, that it must not

be assumed that they had any serious doubt on the subject.

Miss Eastlake, leading lady in Mr. Wilson Barrett's company, touring in America, has been taken seriously ill, and is confined to her bed.

Sir Charles Russell has passed through the painful part of an attack of influenza, but is rapidly recovering.

A movement has been started with the object of providing a convalescent home for members of the printing and allied trades.

Another fine specimen of the golden eagle has been seen soaring over Eastwell Park, Kent. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to shoot it.

The successful wooer of Miss Mary Anderson, Mr. Navarro, of New York, has known the young lady all her life and been very intimate with her and her family.

Miss Clementina Black asserts that in the East end at the present time there are hundreds of women whose earnings when they are in work do not exceed a penny an hour.

The last time Mr. H. M. Stanley lectured in Birmingham his fee was fifteen guineas. Mr. Stanley's terms are a Birmingham inquirer has been informed, 300 guineas for each lecture.

The project of holding a Belgian Exhibition in London this year has been definitively abandoned, in view of the indifference with which it has been regarded.

Experiments which have been made in Canada with samples of the varieties of barley most in favour on the English market have given very satisfactory results.

The movement in favour of the higher education of women is proceeding apace, so far, at least, as Oxford is concerned. The council have had to obtain another house in consequence of the number of applicants.

A negro jumped on the front platform of a street car in Indianapolis, fatally stabbed Morris Parry, the driver, and escaped with the money-box before the passengers knew that anything unusual had happened.

The Standing Committee of the London County Council will unanimously recommend Mr. Binnie, water engineer of Bradford, for the office of chief engineer, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Dunscombe. Mr. Binnie was one of the three selected on the two last elections.

An important circular has been issued by the German Emperor, who has directed his Chancellor to ascertain, through his ambassadors, whether the Governments of England, France, Belgium and Switzerland will join in a conference on the labour question, with a view to improve the condition of workmen and their industries.

Mr. Joseph Nix, the well-known temperance advocate, possesses a singular trophy, a drunkard's medal. It is declared that there are some London public-houses where, if a man drinks enough to get drunk every night he is entitled to a medal, and a special seat is allotted to him, which he is expected to fill.

The natives in Formosa have been defeated with great loss, and the governor's army pursued them for several days across the mountains and destroyed their strongholds. Many of them have given in their allegiance to the Emperor, but those who are still contumacious are killed without mercy, and often with a good deal of cruelty.

A miner named F. Malone was melting some dynamite cartridges at Burradon Colliery, near Newcastle, when they exploded and wrecked his place, two adjoining houses. His child was blown off his knee, and received injuries in the face and arm. Malone was knocked down, but escaped with slight cuts on the legs. Several other persons were also more or less injured.

A Mansfield shopkeeper, named William Slack, was charged at the police court with selling beer without a license. The defendant's house was watched for about two hours on the morning of the 2nd inst., during which time fifty people were supplied with beer. The defendant

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE.
THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER
AND RESTORER.

FOR CLEANSING AND CLEARING the BLOOD from IMPURITIES, it cannot be too highly recommended for Scrofula, Scoury, Eczema, Skin and Blood Diseases, Sores of all kinds it is a never-failing and permanent Cure.

It Cures Old Sores.
Cures Sores on the Neck.
Cures Sore Legs.
Cures Pimples on the Face.
Cures Scoury.
Cures Eczema.
Cures Ulcers.

Cures Blood and Skin Diseases.
Cures Glandular Swellings.
Clears the Blood from all Impure Matter,
From whatever cause arising.
It is the only real specific for
Gout and Rheumatic Pains.
It removes the "cause" from the blood and bones.

As this mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warms
free from anything injurious to the most delicate
constitution of either sex, the Proprietors solicit suffi-
cient to give it a trial to test its value.

CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED

BLOOD MIXTURE

"Prinkham, Edenbridge, Kent, Jan. 1.
 "A young woman of this neighbourhood wishes to thank you for the benefit she has derived from medicine. She says, 'I owe my sight, my comfort my health to Clarke's Blood Mixture.' Her case very bad one indeed. She had been three times at Kent Ophthalmic Hospital, under one or two operations without any permanent relief. Her sight

a swelling of the eyelids and nose, the very worst I saw. The local medical man said, 'She must go under her nose can never sink into its proper shape under any treatment.' But after taking a number of bottles of Clarke's Blood Mixture she began to raise her eyelids little occasionally, but she said 'Then it was cruel work and like looking at muddy water, although it was only for one use could raise them.'

'She has been completely cured by Clarke's Blood Mixture. It is now three years since, and she is free to return of the complaint, and any one would know she had had any enlarged tonsil or anything. She does not wish her name published, but is authorized to say she will answer any inquiries made, providing inquirers enclose stamped envelope, address their questions to the following:

"A. B. CARLEY, Edenbridge."

CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE

"I soon commenced to feel the premonitory symptoms of that lively and exciting disease called, with light-heartedness, 'prickly heat.' All the blood in my veins stood, darting, tingling, and boiling thither at a scorching rate of progress, rendering my skin misery and life by night a horrible torture, suffering and sleeplessness. Then afterwards my blotches came out all over my body from head and the soles of my feet, especially under my arms."

where the tender skin is liable to chafing and One is presently in a hideous state, the actually turns to bleeding, and the livid red and blotches are so close together that hardly a pin could be placed anywhere over the body touching one. And this detestable state of only known by the utterly inauspicious and unimpressive name of "prickly heat." I had a particularly severe case of it. I was so covered with spots that my features were nearly unrecognizable, and amongst the passengers by the sobriquet of the "Spotted Leopard" only relief I found was in Clarke's Blood Purifier, which is a decidedly good medicine to take in such climates." — A. WAGNER, "Telegraph

CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE
"Chester, March 5

"I suffered from rheumatic pains in my legs for over five years. I also had a broken bone, through which I could rest only for a brief time. All sorts of remedies were applied, but did any good for more than a few days. I was then sent to try Clarke's Blood Mix er, which on taking the first bottle I felt relief. I was then given eleven bottles would effect a perfect cure. I am now better and a half, which cost me \$2.46. I feel that it is now ten months since, and I have no least pain—in fact, I am perfect in every way. As good health is what I was in need of."

— moreover, I am
on with rheumatic pains, of my cure, and they
Clarke's Blood Mixture. They are tedious by
in seven days they were at work again, and
Neither be too highly praised. — Hoping I
tataradine, I remain, yours sincerely,
"G. HOWARTH, Sergeant, Depot, C
Regiment, Chester,"

—

THOUSANDS

OF
TESTIMONIAL

SKIN DISEASES, Eruptions, Blotches, Pimples, Pustules, Boils, Carbuncles, Ringworms, Erysipelas, Scuffs, Discoloration of Humours, and Diseases of the Skin, of whatever nature, are literally carried out of the system by the use of this world-famed

IMPORTANT ADVICE TO ALL—

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE is sold in 2s. 9d. and 11s. each—sufficient to effect a cure in the great majority of long-standing cases. All Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors, the world over, or sent to any address on receipt of the order.

CAUTION.—ASK FOR
CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE

THE ISLINGTON TRAGEDY.

Adjourned Inquest.

real, 24 years of age, who was murdered by husband at Islington on the morning of the

was held on Friday. The husband is a constable, and has been committed for trial by the magistrate on the capital charge. It was stated at the prisoner was 44 years older than his wife, whom he married when she was 16 years of age. After committing the murder, the prisoner came to a friend who told him that the police were looking for him, and advised him to give himself up to the police. He told him would after he had had a drink. They had a drink together, and then told his companion that he had hit his wife with a hammer. The prisoner and his wife went to lodge at a house in St. Peter's-street, Exeter, four days before the murder. On Wednesday morning, about half-past nine, the prisoner heard the deceased cry out "Murder." He was running upstairs she met Mrs. Neal coming in her night-gown. Neal ran down after her wife, and pushed passed them and disappeared down the street. He looked back and saw her running away from him, and then fell in a heap. He saw blood at the foot of her night-dress was smooth blood. About one o'clock in the day the prisoner saw his child, and bidding good-by to those in the house, said he was going to give himself up. He was not arrested, however, till the next evening, and he then denied all knowledge of the murder.—The jury found a verdict of warranter against Neal, and he was committed to prison on the coroner's warrant.

SISTER ROSE GERTRUDE.
The Rev. F. W. Fowler, of Coombe Down,
Bath, the father of the young lady who

ingland a short time ago to undertake nursing of the lepers on the Island of Molokai, Hawaii, and to the vicar of Luton, where Mr. Fox's family was at one time resident, says, "We indeed lost the best and most loving of daughters; she was not only determined but deluged to go and do some work in God's service, and I could not keep her. She tells me I have lent to the Lord, and He will repay me, but my loss is great."

SHOCKING MURDER AND SUICIDE.
A shocking wife murder, followed by the suicide of the murderer, was perpetrated the other day at Higher Huxham, near Stoke Canon, within about four miles from Exeter. The police were concerned in the tragedy were James Gosling and his wife Emma. It has been noticed for some time past that ill-feeling existed between the pair. Last June Gosling was arrested for larceny, and ill-treating her, and was sentenced to six weeks imprisonment, with hard labour. This, it is believed, he has never forgotten, and it is said that he has repeatedly, when questioning his wife, said he would never overlook the offence. He went to work as usual at the paper mill, where he had been employed on Tuesday, and spent the evening at the Stoke Canon Inn. He left there about midnight, and shook hands with every one who passed, before departing, arriving home at about 1 o'clock. The cottage—a distance of two miles from Stoke Canon—at half-past ten. There are in the family eight children, but only four live at home. The eldest of whom, John, is 15 years of age. A quarrel arose between the man and woman, and Gosling threatened to stike his wife she rushed out to return, but she refused, and he locked her out. About a quarter of an hour afterwards Gosling again went to the door and repeated his former request for his wife to enter the house, which she declined to do. He then rushed out of the house after her through the garden and into the fields towards Stoke Canon. When about thirty yards from the cottage he overtook her, and with a pocket-knife cut her throat in a frightful manner, the poor woman dying almost instantly. He then went back into the house and put his body into his pocket and pulled the door to, in which he gave the alarm. He then took a pocket watch from his pocket and cut his own throat, so that he died nearly from the body. The poor boy was terrified, but without disturbing his three brothers, who were sleeping upstairs, he ran to fetch Police-constable Goddard, of Stoke Canon, and to call assistance. When this arrived the husband and wife were quite dead.—An inquest was held on Wednesday evening, at which the chief witness was the boy John, who witnessed the deaths of his parents. A verdict of suicide was returned.

MONEY MARKET.

CITY, Saturday. There was scarcely any business done on the Stock Exchange to-day. The Funds were neglected. Foreign Government Securities were neglected. Home Railways opened firm, but came dull. American Railways favourable. Canadian Lines dull. Foreign Railways without alteration. Mining Shares quiet. Quotations:—Consols, 97½; ditto account, Two-and-a-Half per Cent., 95½.

FOREIGN	STOCKS.
Argentina, 1886, 93, 4	Peruvian 6 per Cents, 4
Brazilian, 1886, 102, 1	Ditto 5 per Cents, 17 1/2
European Preference, 103 1/2, 5	Portuguese 3 per Cents
Ditto United, 93 1/2, 4	Russian, 4 per Cents
Ditto o Daira Sanieh, 93, 5	Spanish 2 per Cents
Ditto Domain, 102 1/2, 4	Ditto 4 per Cents, 72 1/2
French 3 per Cents, 88 1/2, 7	Furkish Defence, 101
Hungarian 5 p.c., 1881 87 1/2, 5	Ditto, 1871, 94 1/2, 5
Italian 5 per Cents, 92 1/2, 4	Uruguay, 72, 3
Mexican 6 p.c., 1389, 94 1/2, 5	Venezuela, 52 1/2, 3 1/2
Paraguay Bonds, 188, 43, 5	

BRITISH RAILWAYS.	
Brighton Ordinary, 154, 6	Metropolitan, 75, 6
Ditto Defrd., 151, 3	Ditto District, 29, 3
Caledonian, 124, 5	Midland, 143, 4
Chatham Ordinary, 22, 3	North British, 63, 4
Ditto, Pref., 103, 9	North-Eastern, 188, 5
East Lon. Consolidatd., 94, 10	North Staffordshire, 1, 1
Great Eastern, 50, 1	North-Western, 177, 3
Great Northern, 124, 6	South-Eastern, 17, 3
Ditto, 103, 9	Ditto, Defrd., 49, 3
Great Western, 165, 3	South-Eastern, 136, 8
Hull and Barnsley, 38, 3	Ditto, Defrd., 30, 3
Leam. & Yorksire, 123, 4	South-Western, 135, 3

UNITED STATES RAILWAYS.	
Central Pacific, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 46	Ontario, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Chgo. Mil. & St. Paul, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Norfolk & West. Pref.,
Denver & Rio Grande, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	North Pacific Pref., 7
Erie, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Ohio & Mich. Ord., 23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Illino. Central, 121 $\frac{1}{2}$, 25	Pennsylvania, 55, 2
Kansas City & Nashville, 91 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Reading, 21 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Lake Shore, 107 $\frac{1}{2}$, 9	Union Pacific, 68 $\frac{1}{2}$, 9
Missouri & Texas, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Walach Common, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York Central, 100 $\frac{1}{2}$, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ditto Pref., 32 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
OTHER AMERICAN RAILWAYS.	
Canadian Pacific, 76 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Gd. Trunk 3rd Pref.,
Grand Trunk Ord., 101 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Ditto 1st Ord., 38 $\frac{1}{2}$, 9
Ditto Lat. Pref., 73 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Ditto 2d Pref., 118 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Ditto Lat. Pref., 42 $\frac{1}{2}$, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexico Ord. Pref., 75 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
MINES.	
Cape Copper, 31 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Montana, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
De Beers, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Myasoe, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Jubilee, 55 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Rio Tinto, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Imperial, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Salsburg, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Mason and Barry, 65 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Stimmet & Jack, 55 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
MISCELLANEOUS.	
Allsopp, Ordinary, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Hotchkiss, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Barrett's Brewery, 44 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	New Explosives, 35 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Bryant and May, 125 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	Nordenfliet, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Gas Light and Coke A., 347, 50	Spratt's Patent, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4
Guinness Ordinary, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4	